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Merriam-Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary

TENTH EDITION

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Merriam-Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary

TENTH EDITION

Merriam-Webster, Incorporated
Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A.



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ANT — **peri·pa·tet·i·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv* — **Peri·pa·tet·i·cism** \-'te-tə-ˌsi-zəm\ *n*

pe·rip·a·tus \pə-'ri-pə-təs\ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. Gk *peripatos* act of walking about, fr. *peri-* + *patein* to tread] (ca. 1931) : any of a class or phylum (Onychophora) of primitive tropical wormlike invertebrates that appear intermediate between annelid worms and arthropods

peri·pe·teia \ˌper-ə-pə-'tē-ə, -'ti-\ *n* [Gk, fr. *peripiptein* to fall around, change suddenly, fr. *peri-* + *piptein* to fall — more at FEATHER] (1591) : a sudden or unexpected reversal of circumstances or situation esp. in a literary work

pe·rip·e·ty \pə-'ri-pə-tē\ *n, pl* **-ties** (1753) : PERIPETEIA

¹pe·riph·er·al \pə-'ri-f(ə-)rəl\ *adj* (1808) **1** : of, relating to, involving, or forming a periphery or surface part **2** : of, relating to, or being part of the peripheral nervous system ⟨~ nerves⟩ **3** : of, relating to, or being the outer part of the field of vision ⟨good ~ vision⟩ **4** : AUXILIARY, SUPPLEMENTARY ⟨~ equipment⟩; *also* : of or relating to computer peripherals — **pe·riph·er·al·ly** *adv*

²peripheral *n* (1966) : a device connected to a computer to provide communication (as input and output) or auxiliary functions (as additional storage)

peripheral nervous system *n* (1935) : the part of the nervous system that is outside the central nervous system and comprises the cranial nerves excepting the optic nerve, the spinal nerves, and the autonomic nervous system

pe·riph·ery \pə-'ri-f(ə-)rē\ *n, pl* **-er·ies** [MF *peripherie*, fr. LL *peripheria*, fr. Gk *peripereia*, fr. *peripherein* to carry around, fr. *peri-* + *pherein* to carry — more at BEAR] (1571) **1** : the perimeter of a circle or other closed curve; *also* : the perimeter of a polygon **2** : the external boundary or surface of a body **3 a** : the outward bounds of something as distinguished from its internal regions or center : CONFINES **b** : an area lying beyond the strict limits of a thing

pe·riph·ra·sis \pə-'ri-frə-səs\ *n, pl* **-ra·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [L, fr. Gk, fr. *periphrazein* to express periphrastically, fr. *peri-* + *phrazein* to point out] (1533) **1** : use of a longer phrasing in place of a possible shorter form of expression **2** : an instance of periphrasis

peri·phras·tic \ˌper-ə-'fras-tik\ *adj* (1805) **1** : of, relating to, or characterized by periphrasis **2** : formed by the use of function words or auxiliaries instead of by inflection ⟨*more fair* is a ~ comparative⟩ — **peri·phras·ti·cal·ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

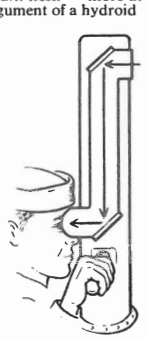
pe·riph·y·ton \pə-'ri-fə-ˌtän\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *periphytos* (verbal of *periphyein* to grow around, fr. *peri-* + *phyein* to bring forth, grow) + *-on* (as in *plankton*) — more at BE] (1945) : organisms (as some algae) that live attached to underwater surfaces — **peri·phyt·ic** \ˌper-ə-'fi-tik\ *adj*

peri·plast \'per-ə-ˌplast\ *n* (1853) : PLASMA MEMBRANE; *also* : a proteinaceous subcellular layer below the plasma membrane esp. of a euglena

pe·rique \pə-'rēk\ *n* [LaF *périque*] (1882) : an aromatic fermented Louisiana tobacco used in smoking mixtures

peri·sarc \'per-ə-ˌsärk\ *n* [ISV *peri-* + Gk *sark-, sarx* flesh — more at SARCASM] (ca. 1871) : the outer usu. chitinous integument of a hydroid

peri·scope \-ˌskōp\ *n* [ISV] (1879) : a tubular optical instrument containing lenses and mirrors by which an observer obtains an otherwise obstructed field of view



periscope

peri·scop·ic \ˌper-ə-'skä-pik\ *adj* (1804) **1** : providing a view all around or on all sides ⟨~ lens⟩ **2** : of or relating to a periscope

per·ish \'per-ish\ *vb* [ME *perisshen*, fr. OF *periss-*, stem of *perir*, fr. L *perire*, fr. *per-* detrimentally + *ire* to go — more at PER-, ISSUE] *vi* (13c) **1** : to become destroyed or ruined : DIE ⟨recollection of a past already long since ~*ed* —Philip Sherrard⟩ ⟨guard against your mistakes or your attempts (~ the thought) to cheat —C. B. Davis⟩ **2** *chiefly Brit* : DETERIORATE, SPOIL ● *vt* **1** *chiefly Brit* : to cause to die : DESTROY **2** : WEAKEN, BENUMB

per·ish·able \'per-i-shə-bəl\ *adj* (ca. 1611) : liable to perish : liable to spoil or decay ⟨such ~ products as fruit, vegetables, butter, and eggs⟩ — **per·ish·abil·i·ty** \ˌper-i-shə-'bi-lə-tē\ *n* — **perishable** *n*

per·is·so·dac·tyl \pə-'ri-sə-ˌdak-t³l\ *n* [NL *Perissodactyla*, fr. Gk *perissos* excessive, odd in number + *daktylos* finger, toe] (1849) : any of an order (Perissodactyla) of nonruminant ungulate mammals (as a horse, a tapir, or a rhinoceros) that usu. have an odd number of toes, molar teeth with transverse ridges on the grinding surface, and the posterior premolars resembling true molars — **perissodactyl** *adj*

peri·stal·sis \ˌper-ə-'stȯl-səs, -'stäl-, -'stal-\ *n, pl* **-stal·ses** \-ˌsēz\ [NL, fr. Gk *peristaltikos* peristaltic] (1859) : successive waves of involuntary contraction passing along the walls of a hollow muscular structure (as the esophagus or intestine) and forcing the contents onward

peri·stal·tic \-tik\ *adj* [Gk *peristaltikos*, fr. *peristellein* to wrap around, fr. *peri-* + *stellein* to place] (1655) **1** : of, relating to, resulting from, or being peristalsis **2** : having an action suggestive of peristalsis

peristaltic pump *n* (1962) : a pump in which fluid is forced along by waves of contraction produced mechanically on flexible tubing

peri·stome \'per-ə-ˌstōm\ *n* [NL *peristoma*, fr. *peri-* + Gk *stoma* mouth — more at STOMACH] (ca. 1796) **1** : the fringe of teeth surrounding the orifice of a moss capsule **2** : the region around the mouth in various invertebrates — **peri·sto·mi·al** \ˌper-ə-'stō-mē-əl\ *adj*

peri·style \'per-ə-ˌstīl\ *n* [F *péristyle*, fr. L *peristylum*, fr. Gk *peristylon*, fr. neut. of *peristylos* surrounded by a colonnade, fr. *peri-* + *stylos* pillar — more at STEER] (1612) **1** : a colonnade surrounding a building or court **2** : an open space enclosed by a colonnade

peri·the·ci·um \ˌper-ə-'thē-shē-əm, -sē-\ *n, pl* **-cia** \-shē-ə, -sē-\ [NL, fr. *peri-* + Gk *thēkion*, dim. of *thēkē* case — more at TICK] (ca. 1832) : a spherical, cylindrical, or flask-shaped hollow fruiting body in various ascomycetous fungi that contains the asci and usu. opens by a terminal pore — **peri·the·cial** \-'thē-sh(ē-)əl, -sē-əl\ *adj*

peri·to·ne·um \ˌper-ə-tᵊn-'ē-əm\ *n, pl* **-ne·ums** \-'ē-əmz\ *or* **-nea** \-'ē-ə\ [ME, fr. LL, fr. Gk *peritonaion*, neut. of *peritonaios* stretched around, fr. *peri-* + *teinein* to stretch — more at THIN] (15c) : the smooth transparent serous membrane that lines the cavity of the abdomen of a mammal and is folded inward over the abdominal and pelvic viscera — **peri·to·ne·al** \-'tē-ə-l\ *adj* — **peri·to·ne·al·ly** \-ə-lē\ *adv*

peri·to·ni·tis \ˌper-ə-tᵊn-'ī-təs\ *n* [NL] (1776) : inflammation of the peritoneum

pe·rit·ri·chous \pə-'ri-tri-kəs\ *adj* [*peri-* + Gk *trich-, thrix* hair] (1877) **1** : having flagella uniformly distributed over the body ⟨~ bacteria⟩ **2** : having a spiral line of modified cilia around the oral disk ⟨~ protozoa⟩ — **pe·rit·ri·chous·ly** *adv*

peri·wig \'per-i-ˌwig\ *n* [modif. of MF *perruque* — more at PERUKE] (1529) : PERUKE — **peri·wigged** \-ˌwigd\ *adj*

¹per·i·win·kle \'per-i-ˌwiŋ-kəl\ *n* [ME *perwinke*, fr. OE *perwince*, fr. (assumed) VL *pervinca*, short for L *vincapervinca*] (bef. 12c) **1** : any of several trailing or woody evergreen herbs of the dogbane family: as **a** : a European creeper (*Vinca minor*) widely cultivated as a ground cover and for its blue or white flowers — called also *myrtle* **b** : a commonly cultivated subshrub (*Catharanthus roseus* syn. *Vinca rosea*) of the Old World tropics that is the source of several antineoplastic drugs — called also *Madagascar periwinkle* **2** : a light purplish blue — called also *periwinkle blue*

²periwinkle *n* [(assumed) ME, alter. of OE *pinewincle*, fr. L *pina*, a kind of mussel (fr. Gk) + OE *-wincle* (akin to Dan *vincle* snail shell)] (ca. 1530) : any of various gastropod mollusks: as **a** : any of a genus (*Littorina*) of edible littoral marine snails; *also* : any of various similar or related marine snails **b** : any of several No. American freshwater snails



²periwinkle a

per·jure \'pər-jər\ *vt* **per·jured; per·jur·ing** \'pər-jə-riŋ, 'pərj-riŋ\ [MF *perjurer*, fr. L *perjurare*, fr. *per-* detrimentally, for the worse + *jurare* to swear — more at PER-, JURY] (1535) **1** : to make a perjurer of (oneself) **2** *obs* : to cause to commit perjury

per·jur·er \'pər-jər-ər\ *n* (15c) : a person guilty of perjury

per·ju·ri·ous \(ˌ)pər-'jůr-ē-əs\ *adj* (1602) : marked by perjury ⟨~ testimony⟩ — **per·ju·ri·ous·ly** *adv*

per·ju·ry \'pər-jə-rē, 'pərj-rē\ *n* (14c) : the voluntary violation of an oath or vow either by swearing to what is untrue or by omission to do what has been promised under oath : false swearing

¹perk \'pərk\ *vb* [ME] *vi* (14c) **1 a** : to thrust up the head, stretch out the neck, or carry the body in a bold or insolent manner **b** : to stick up or out jauntily **2** : to gain in vigor or cheerfulness esp. after a period of weakness or depression — usu. used with *up* ⟨he's ~*ed* up noticeably⟩ ● *vt* **1** : to make smart or spruce in appearance : FRESHEN, IMPROVE **2** : to thrust up quickly or impudently

²perk *vi* (1656) : PERCOLATE

³perk *n* (1824) : PERQUISITE — usu. used in pl.

perky \'pər-kē\ *adj* **perk·i·er; -est** (1855) **1** : briskly self-assured : COCKY **2** : JAUNTY ⟨a ~ . . . waltz —*New Yorker*⟩ — **perk·i·ly** \-kə-lē\ *adv* — **perk·i·ness** \-kē-nəs\ *n*

per·lite \'pər-ˌlīt\ *n* [F, fr. *perle* pearl] (1833) : volcanic glass that has a concentric shelly structure, appears as if composed of concretions, is usu. grayish and sometimes spherulitic, and when expanded by heat forms a lightweight aggregate used esp. in concrete and plaster and as a medium for potting plants — **per·lit·ic** \ˌpər-'li-tik\ *adj*

¹perm \'pərm\ *n* (1927) : PERMANENT

²perm *vt* (1928) : to give (hair) a permanent wave

per·ma·frost \'pər-mə-ˌfrȯst\ *n* [*permanent* + *frost*] (1943) : a permanently frozen layer at variable depth below the surface in frigid regions of a planet (as earth)

per·ma·nence \'pər-mə-nən(t)s, 'pərm-nən(t)s\ *n* (15c) : the quality or state of being permanent : DURABILITY

per·ma·nen·cy \-nən(t)-sē\ *n, pl* **-cies** (1555) **1** : PERMANENCE **2** : something permanent

¹per·ma·nent \-nənt\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *permanent-, permanens*, prp. of *permanēre* to endure, fr. *per-* throughout + *manēre* to remain — more at PER-, MANSION] (15c) : continuing or enduring without fundamental or marked change : STABLE ***syn*** see LASTING — **per·ma·nent·ly** *adv* — **per·ma·nent·ness** *n*

²permanent *n* (1925) : a long-lasting hair wave or straightening produced by mechanical and chemical means — called also *permanent wave*

permanent magnet *n* (1828) : a magnet that retains its magnetism after removal of the magnetizing force

permanent press *n* (1964) **1** : the process of treating a fabric with a chemical (as a resin) and heat for setting the shape and for aiding wrinkle resistance **2** : material treated by permanent press **3** : the condition of material treated by permanent press — **permanent-press** *adj*

permanent tissue *n* (ca. 1928) : plant tissue that has completed its growth and differentiation and is usu. incapable of meristematic activity

permanent tooth *n* (1836) : any of the second set of teeth of a mammal that follow the milk teeth, typically persist into old age, and in humans are 32 in number

per·man·ga·nate \(ˌ)pər-'maŋ-gə-ˌnāt\ *n* (1841) **1** : a salt containing the anion MnO_4^-; *esp* : POTASSIUM PERMANGANATE **2** : the anion MnO_4^- of a permanganate

per·me·abil·i·ty \ˌpər-mē-ə-'bi-lə-tē\ *n* (1759) **1** : the quality or state of being permeable **2** : the property of a magnetizable substance that determines the degree in which it modifies the magnetic flux in the region occupied by it in a magnetic field

per·me·able \'pər-mē-ə-bəl\ *adj* (15c) : capable of being permeated : PENETRABLE; *esp* : having pores or openings that permit liquids or gases to pass through ⟨a ~ membrane⟩ ⟨~ limestone⟩

per·me·ase \'pər-mē-ˌās, -ˌāz\ *n* [ISV *perme-* (fr. *permeate*) + *-ase*] (1957) : a substance that catalyzes the transport of another substance across a cell membrane

per·me·ate \'pər-mē-ˌāt\ *vb* **-at·ed; -at·ing** [L *permeatus*, pp. of *permeare*, fr. *per-* through + *meare* to go, pass; akin to MW *mynet* to go,

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