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di-a-lyze /'di:ə,liz/ (Brit. **dialyze**) ► v. [with obj.] purify (a mixture) by means of dialysis. ■ treat (a patient) by means of dialysis.

— ORIGIN mid 19th cent.: from **DIALYSIS**, on the pattern of **analyze**.

diam. ► abbr. diameter.

di-a-mag-net-ic /diə'mæɡ'netik/ ► adj. Physics (of a substance or body) tending to become magnetized in a direction at 180° to the applied magnetic field.

— DERIVATIVES **di-a-mag-net** /diə'mæɡnit/ n., **di-a-mag-net-ic-ally** /-ik(ə)lē/ adv.

di-a-mag-net-ism /-mæɡnə'tizəm/ n.

— ORIGIN 1846: coined by Faraday, from Greek *dia* 'through, across' + **MAGNETIC**.

di-a-man-té /dēəmānt'ē/ ► adj. decorated with artificial jewels: a **diamanté brooch**.

► n. artificial jewels. ■ fabric or costume jewelry decorated with artificial jewels.

— ORIGIN early 20th cent.: French, literally 'set with diamonds', past participle of *diamanter*, from *diamant* 'diamond.'

di-a-man-tif-er-ous /diə'mæntifərəs/ ► adj. (of a rock formation, region, etc.) producing or yielding diamonds.

— ORIGIN late 19th cent.: from French *diamantifère*, from *diamant* 'diamond' + *-fère* 'producing.'

di-a-man-tine /diə'mæntin, 'diə'man-, -tēn/ ► adj. made from or reminiscent of diamonds.

— ORIGIN mid 16th cent. (in the sense 'hard as diamond'): from French *diamantin*, from *diamant* 'diamond.'

di-am-e-ter /di'æmitər/ (abbr.: **diam.**) ► n. 1 a straight line passing from side to side through the center of a body or figure, esp. a circle or sphere. ■ the length of this line. ■ a transverse measurement of something; width or thickness. 2 a unit of linear measurement of magnifying power.

— DERIVATIVES **di-am-e-tral** /-trəl/ adj.

— ORIGIN late Middle English: from Old French *diametre*, via Latin from Greek *diametros* (*grammē*) '(line) measuring across', from *dia* 'across' + *metron* 'measure.'

di-a-met-ri-cal /diə'metrikəl/ ► adj. 1 used to emphasize how completely different two or more things are: *he's the diametrical opposite of Gabriel*. 2 of or along a diameter.

— DERIVATIVES **di-a-met-ric** /-trik/ adj.

— ORIGIN mid 16th cent. (sense 2): from Greek *diametrikos* (from *diametros* 'measuring across': see **DIAMETER**) + **-AL**.

di-a-met-ri-cal-ly /diə'metrik(ə)lē/ ► adv. (with reference to opposition) completely; directly: [as submodifier] *two diametrically opposed viewpoints*.

di-am-ine /diə'mēn, di'amin/ ► n. Chemistry a compound whose molecule contains two amino groups, esp. when not part of amide groups.

di-a-mond /di'æmənd/ ► n. 1 a precious stone consisting of a clear and typically colorless crystalline form of pure carbon, the hardest naturally occurring substance. ■ a tool with a small stone of such a kind for cutting glass.

Diamonds occur in some igneous rock formations (kimberlite) and alluvial deposits. They are typically octahedral in shape but can be cut in many ways to enhance the internal reflection and refraction of light, producing jewels of sparkling brilliance. Diamonds are also used in cutting tools and abrasives.

2 [often as modifier] a figure with four straight sides of equal length forming two opposite acute angles and two opposite obtuse angles; a rhombus: *decorative diamond shapes*. ■ (diamonds) one of the four suits in a conventional pack of playing cards, denoted by a red figure of such a shape. ■ a card of this suit: *she led a losing diamond*. ■ the area delimited by the four bases of a baseball field, forming a square shape. ■ a baseball field.

— PHRASES **diamond in the rough** a person who is generally of good character but lacks manners, education, or style.

— DERIVATIVES **di-a-mond-if-er-ous**

/di'æməntifərəs/ adj.

— ORIGIN Middle English: from Old French *diamant*, from medieval Latin *diamas*, *diamant-*, variant of Latin *adamans* (see **ADAMANT**).

di-a-mond-back /di'æmənd,bæk/ ► n. 1 (also **diamondback rattlesnake**) a large, common North American rattlesnake with diamond-shaped markings. Also called **DIAMOND RATTLESNAKE**.

● Genus *Crotalus*, family Viperidae: two species. 2 another term for **TERRAPIN** (sense 1).

di-a-mond-back moth ► n. a small, grayish moth that displays a pattern of diamonds along its back when the wings are folded. The caterpillar can be a pest of brassicas and other cultivated vegetables. ● *Plutella xylostella*, family Yponomeutidae.

di-a-mond-cut ► adj. 1 cut with facets like a diamond.

2 cut into the shape of a diamond.

Di-a-mond Head a volcanic crater that overlooks the port of Honolulu on the Hawaiian island of Oahu.

di-a-mond ju-bi-lee ► n. the sixtieth anniversary of a notable event, esp. a sovereign's accession or the foundation of an organization.

di-a-mond plate ► n. a diamond-shaped design that is stamped into metal to give it industrial strength.

di-a-mond py-thon ► n. a carpet python of a race occurring in the coastal areas of New South Wales. ● *Morelia spilota spilota*, family Pythonidae.

di-a-mond rat-tle-snake ► n. another term for **DIAMONDBACK** (sense 1).

Di-a-mond State a nickname for the state of **DELAWARE**.

di-a-mond wed-ding (also **diamond wedding anniversary**) ► n. the sixtieth (or seventy-fifth) anniversary of a wedding.

di-a-mond wil-low ► n. a willow with diamond-shaped depressions on the trunk as a result of fungal attack, resulting in timber with a diamond-shaped pattern of pale sapwood and darker heartwood. ● Several species in the genus *Salix* are affected, in particular *S. bebbiana*.

di-a-mor-phine /diə'mɔrfən/ ► n. short for **DIACETYLMORPHINE** (heroin).

Di-an-a /di'ana/ Roman Mythology an early Italian goddess associated with hunting, virginity, and, in later literature, with the moon. Greek equivalent **ARTEMIS**.

di-an-a /di'anə/ ► n. a North American fritillary (butterfly), the male of which is orange and black and the female blue and black. ● *Speyeria diana*, subfamily Argynniae, family Nymphalidae. — ORIGIN modern Latin; associated with the goddess of the moon, because of the silvery crescents on the wings.

Di-an-a, Princess of Wales (1961–97), former wife of Prince Charles; title before marriage *Lady Diana Frances Spencer*. The daughter of the 8th Earl Spencer, she married Prince Charles in 1981; the couple were divorced in 1996. She became a popular figure through her charity work and glamorous media appearances, and her death in an automobile accident in Paris gave rise to intense international mourning.

Di-an-a mon-key ► n. a West African monkey that has a black face with a white crescent on the forehead. ● *Cercopithecus diana*, family Cercopithecidae.

— ORIGIN early 19th cent.: named after the Roman moon goddess **DIANA**.

Di-a-net-ics /diə'netiks/ ► plural n. [treated as sing.] a system developed by the founder of the Church of Scientology, L. Ron Hubbard, that aims to relieve psychosomatic disorder by cleansing the mind of harmful mental images.

— ORIGIN 1950s: from Greek *dianoëtikos* 'relating to thought' + **-ICS**.

di-an-thus /di'ANTHəs/ ► n. (pl. **dianthus**) a flowering plant of a genus that includes the pinks and carnations. ● Genus *Dianthus*, family Caryophyllaceae.

— ORIGIN from Greek *Dios* 'of Zeus' + *anthos* 'a flower.'

di-a-pa-son /diə'pəzən, -sən/ ► n. 1 (also **open diapason** or **stopped diapason**) an organ stop sounding a main register of flue pipes, typically of eight-foot pitch.

2 a grand swelling burst of harmony.

3 literary the entire compass, range, or scope of something.

— ORIGIN late Middle English (denoting the interval of an octave): via Latin from Greek *diapason* (*khordōn*) 'through all (notes).'

di-a-pause /diə'pəz/ Zoology ► n. a period of suspended development in an insect, other invertebrate, or mammal embryo, esp. during unfavorable environmental conditions.

► v. [no obj.] (usu. as adj. **diapausing**) (of an insect or other animal) undergo such a period of suspended development.

— ORIGIN late 19th cent.: from **DI-** 'through' + the noun **PAUSE**.

di-a-pe-de-sis /diə'pēdēs/ ► n. Medicine the passage of blood cells through the intact walls of the capillaries, typically accompanying inflammation.

— ORIGIN early 17th cent.: modern Latin, based on Greek *dia* 'through' + *pēdan* 'throb or leap.'

di-a-per /di'æpər/ ► n. 1 a piece of absorbent material wrapped around a baby's bottom and between its legs to absorb and retain urine and feces.

2 a linen or cotton fabric woven in a repeating pattern of small diamonds. ■ a repeating geometric or floral pattern used to decorate a surface.

► v. [with obj.] 1 put a diaper on (a baby).

2 decorate (a surface) with a repeating geometric or floral pattern.

— ORIGIN Middle English: from Old French *diapre*, from medieval Latin *diasprum*, from medieval Greek *diaspros* (adjective), from *dia* 'across' + *aspros* 'white'. The term seems originally to have denoted a costly fabric, but after the 15th cent. it was used in sense 2 of the noun; babies' diapers were originally made from pieces of this fabric, hence sense 1 of the noun (late 16th cent.).

di-a-per rash ► n. inflammation of a baby's skin caused by prolonged contact with a damp diaper.

di-aph-a-nous /di'afənos/ ► adj. (esp. of fabric) light, delicate, and translucent: *a diaphanous dress of pale gold*.

— ORIGIN early 17th cent.: from medieval Latin *diaphanus*, from Greek *diaphanēs*, from *dia* 'through' + *phainein* 'to show.'

di-a-phone /di'əfən/ ► n. a low-pitched fog signal operated by compressed air, characterized by the "grunt" that ends each note.

— ORIGIN early 20th cent.: from Greek *dia* 'through' + *phōnē* 'sound.'

di-aph-o-rase /di'afə'rās, -rāz/ ► n. Biochemistry an enzyme of the flavoprotein type, able to oxidize a reduced form of the coenzyme NAD.

— ORIGIN 1930s: from Greek *diaphoros* 'different' + **-ASE**.

di-a-pho-re-sis /di'əfə'rēsis/ ► n. technical sweating, esp. to an unusual degree as a symptom of disease or a side effect of a drug.

— ORIGIN late 17th cent.: via late Latin from Greek, from *diaphorein* 'carry off, sweat out', from *dia* 'through' + *phorein* 'carry.'

di-a-pho-ret-ic /di'əfə'retik/ ► adj. Medicine (chiefly of a drug) inducing perspiration. ■ (of a person) sweating heavily.

— ORIGIN late Middle English: via late Latin from Greek *diaphoretikos*, from *diaphorein* 'sweat out.'

di-a-phragm /di'əfrəm/ ► n. 1 a dome-shaped, muscular partition separating the thorax from the abdomen in mammals. It plays a major role in breathing, as its contraction increases the volume of the thorax and so inflates the lungs.

2 a thin sheet of material forming a partition. ■ a taut, flexible membrane in mechanical or acoustic systems. ■ a thin contraceptive cap fitting over the cervix.

3 a device for varying the effective aperture of the lens in a camera or other optical system.

— DERIVATIVES **di-a-phrag-mat-ic** /di'əfrəɡ'matik/ adj.

— ORIGIN late Middle English: from late Latin *diaphragma*, from Greek, from *dia* 'through, apart' + *phragma* 'a fence.'

di-a-phragm pump ► n. a pump using a flexible diaphragm in place of a piston.

di-aph-y-sis /di'afəsis/ ► n. (pl. **diaphyses** /-sēz/) Anatomy the shaft or central part of a long bone. Compare with **EPIPHYSIS**.

— ORIGIN mid 19th cent.: from Greek *diaphusis* 'growing through', from *dia* 'through' + *phusis* 'growth.'

di-a-pir /di'əpir/ ► n. Geology a domed rock formation in which a core of rock has moved upward to pierce the overlying strata.

— DERIVATIVES **di-a-pir-ic** /di'əpirik/ adj., **di-a-pir-ism** /-izəm/ n.

— ORIGIN early 20th cent.: from Greek *diapirainein* 'pierce through', from *dia* 'through' + *peirainein* (from *peran* 'pierce').

di-a-pos-i-tive /diə'pəzitiv/ ► n. a positive photographic slide or transparency.

di-ap-sid /di'apsid/ ► n. Zoology a reptile of a large group characterized by the presence of two temporal openings in the skull, including the lizards, snakes, crocodiles, dinosaurs, and pterosaurs. ● Subclass Anapsida.

— ORIGIN early 20th cent.: from modern Latin *Diapsida*, from **DI-** 'two' + Greek *apsis*, *apsid-* 'arch.'

di-ar-chy /di'ärkē/ (also **dyarchy**) ► n. (pl. **diarchies**) government by two independent authorities (esp. in India 1919–35).

— DERIVATIVES **di-ar-chal** /di'ärkal/ adj., **di-ar-chie** /di'ärkik/ adj.

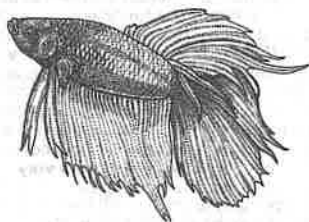
— ORIGIN late 19th cent.: from **DI-** 'two' + Greek *arkhia* 'rule', on the pattern of *monarchy*.

di-a-rist /di'ärist/ ► n. a person who writes a diary. — DERIVATIVES **di-a-ris-tic** /di'äristik/ adj.

di-a-rize /di'äriz/ ► v. [no obj.] archaic keep a record of events in a diary.

fight-ing chance ► *n.* a possibility of success if great effort is made: *they still have a fighting chance of clinching the title.*

figh t-ing fish (also **Siamese fighting fish**) ► *n.* a small labyrinth fish native to Thailand, the males of which fight vigorously. It has been bred in a variety of colors for fighting and for aquariums. ● *Betta splendens*, family Belontiidae.



fighting fish

fight-ing words ► *plural n.* informal words indicating a willingness to fight or challenge someone. ■ words expressing an insult, esp. of an ethnic, racial, or sexist nature.

fig leaf ► *n.* a leaf of a fig tree, often depicted as concealing the genitals in paintings and sculpture. ■ a thing designed to conceal a difficulty or embarrassment: *the amendment was just a fig leaf designed to cover the cracks in the party.*

— **ORIGIN** early 16th cent.: with reference to the story of Adam and Eve (Gen. 3:7).

fig-ment /'figmənt/ ► *n.* a thing that someone believes to be real but that exists only in their imagination: *it really was Ross and not a figment of her overheated imagination.*

— **ORIGIN** late Middle English (denoting an invented statement or story): from Latin *figmentum*, related to *figere* 'form, contrive.' Compare with **FEIGN** and **FICTION**. The current sense dates from the early 17th cent.

fi-gu-ra /'figyōrə/ ► *n.* (pl. *figurae* /-rē/) (in literary theory) a person or thing representing or symbolizing a fact or ideal.

— **ORIGIN** mid 20th cent.: Latin, literally 'figure' (representing an early use of *figure* to denote an emblem or type).

fig-ur-al /'figyərəl/ ► *adj.* 1 another term for **FIGURATIVE** (sense 1). ■ (in postmodernist writing) relating to or denoting a form of signification that relies on imagery and association rather than on rational and linguistic concepts.

2 Art another term for **FIGURATIVE** (sense 2). — **ORIGIN** late Middle English: from Old French, or from late Latin *figuralis*, from *figura* 'form, shape' (see **FIGURE**).

fig-ur-ant /'figyərənt, 'figyərənt/ ► *n.* (fem. *figurante* /'figyərəntē, -rənt/) a supernumerary actor.

— **ORIGIN** French, present participle of *figurer* 'to figure.'

fig-ur-a-tion /'figyərəʃən/ ► *n.* 1 ornamentation by means of figures or designs. ■ Music use of florid counterpoint: *the figuration of the accompaniment comes out too strongly.*

2 allegorical representation: *the figuration of "The Possessed" is much more complex; the opening parable may be read as a figuration of the main idea behind the novel.*

— **ORIGIN** Middle English (in the senses 'outline' and 'making of arithmetical figures'): from Latin *figuratio* (*n.*), from *figurare* 'to form or fashion,' from *figura* (see **FIGURE**).

fig-ur-a-tive /'figyərətɪv/ ► *adj.* 1 departing from a literal use of words; metaphorical: *gold, in the figurative language of the people, was "the tears wept by the sun."*

2 (of an artist or work of art) representing forms that are recognizably derived from life.

— **DERIVATIVES** **fig-ur-a-tive-ly** *adv.*, **fig-ur-a-tive-ness** *n.*

— **ORIGIN** Middle English: from late Latin *figurativus*, from *figurare* 'to form or fashion,' from *figura* (see **FIGURE**).

fig-ure /'figyər/ ► *n.* 1 a number, esp. one that forms part of official statistics or relates to the financial performance of a company: *official census figures* | *a figure of 30,000 deaths annually from snakebite.* ■ a numerical symbol, esp. any of the ten in Arabic notation: *the figure 7.* ■ one of a specified number of digits making up a larger number, used to give a rough idea of the order of magnitude: *their market price runs into five figures* [in combination] *a six-figure salary.* ■ an amount of money: *a figure of two thousand dollars.* ■ (figures) arithmetical calculations: *she has no head for figures.*

2 a person's bodily shape, esp. that of a woman and when considered to be attractive: *she had always been so proud of her figure.* ■ a person seen

indistinctly, esp. at a distance: *a backpacked figure appeared in the distance.* ■ a person of a particular kind, esp. one who is important or distinctive in some way: *Williams became something of a cult figure.* ■ a representation of a human or animal form in drawing or sculpture: *starkly painted figures.* 3 a shape defined by one or more lines in two dimensions (such as a circle or a triangle), or one or more surfaces in three dimensions (such as a sphere or a cuboid), either considered mathematically in geometry or used as a decorative design: *a red ground with white and blue geometric figures.* ■ a diagram or illustrative drawing, esp. in a book or magazine: *figure 1 shows an ignition circuit.* ■ Figure Skating a movement or series of movements following a prescribed pattern and often beginning and ending at the same point. ■ a pattern formed by the movements of a group of people, for example in square dancing or synchronized swimming, as part of a longer dance or display. ■ archaic the external form or shape of a thing.

4 Music a short succession of notes producing a single impression.

5 Logic the form of a syllogism, classified according to the position of the middle term.

► *v.* [no obj.] 1 be a significant and noticeable part of something: *the issue of nuclear policy figured prominently in the talks.* ■ (of a person) play a significant role in a situation or event: *he figured largely in opposition to the bill.* ■ (of a fictional character) play a part in a novel, play, or movie: *the four characters who figure in Ridley's play.*

2 [with obj.] calculate or work out (an amount or value) arithmetically.

3 [with clause] informal think, consider, or expect to be the case: *I figure that wearing a suit makes you look like a bank clerk* | [with obj.] for years, teachers had figured him for a dullard. ■ (of a recent event or newly discovered fact) be logical and unsurprising: *well, she supposed that figured.*

4 [with obj.] represent (something) in a diagram or picture: *varieties of this Cape genus are figured from drawings made there.* ■ (usu. as *adj.*) **figured** embellish (something) with a pattern: *the floors were covered with figured linoleum.*

— **PHRASES** **figure of fun** a person who is considered ridiculous. **figure of speech** a word or phrase used in a nonliteral sense to add rhetorical force to a spoken or written passage: *calling her a crab is just a figure of speech.* **lose (or keep) one's figure** lose (or retain) a slim and attractive bodily shape.

— **PHRASAL VERBS** **figure on** informal count or rely on something happening or being the case in the future: *anyone thinking of salmon fishing should figure on paying \$200 a day.* **figure something out** informal solve or discover the cause of a problem: *he was trying to figure out why the camera wasn't working.* **figure someone out** reach an understanding of a person's actions, motives, or personality.

— **DERIVATIVES** **fig-ure-less** *adj.*

— **ORIGIN** Middle English (in the senses 'distinctive shape of a person or thing,' 'representation of something material or immaterial,' and 'numerical symbol,' among others): from Old French *figure* (noun), *figurer* (verb), from Latin *figura* 'shape, figure, form'; related to *figere* 'form, contrive.'

fig-ured bass ► *n.* Music a bass line with the intended harmonies indicated by figures rather than written out as chords, typical of continuo parts in baroque music.

fig-ure eight (Brit. **figure of eight**) ► *n.* an object or movement having the shape of the number eight.

fig-ure-ground ► *adj.* [attrib.] Psychology & Art relating to or denoting the perception of images by the distinction of objects from a background from which they appear to stand out, esp. in contexts where this distinction is ambiguous.

fig-ure-head /'figyər,hed/ ► *n.* 1 a nominal leader or head without real power.



figurehead 2

filbert

2 a carving, typically a bust or a full-length figure, set at the prow of an old-fashioned sailing ship.

fig-ure-hug-ging ► *adj.* (of a garment) fitting closely to the contours of a woman's body: *a low-cut, figure-hugging dress.*

fig-ure of mer-it ► *n.* a numerical expression representing the performance or efficiency of a given device, material, or procedure.

fig-ure skat-ing ► *n.* the competitive sport of ice skating in prescribed patterns (*figures*) and choreographed free skating.

— **DERIVATIVES** **fig-ure skat-er** *n.*

fig-ur-ine /'figyərɪn/ ► *n.* a statuette, esp. one of a human form.

— **ORIGIN** mid 19th cent.: from French, from Italian *figurina*, diminutive of *figura*, from Latin *figura* (see **FIGURE**).

fig wasp ► *n.* a tiny Old World wasp that lays its eggs inside the flower of the wild fig. It was introduced into the New World to effect cross-fertilization of the cultivated fig. ● *Blastophaga psenes*, family Agaonidae, superfamily Chalcidoidea.

fig-wort /'fig,wɔ:t, -wɔ:t/ ► *n.* a widely distributed herbaceous plant with purplish-brown two-lobed flowers. It was formerly considered to be effective in the treatment of scrofula. ● Genus *Scrophularia*, family Scrophulariaceae (the **figwort family**): several species. Plants of this family have distinctive two-lobed flowers and include the snapdragons, toadflaxes, foxgloves, mulleins, monkey flowers, and speedwells.

— **ORIGIN** mid 16th cent.: from obsolete *fig* 'piles' + **wort**. The word originally denoted the pilewort, or lesser celandine, which was used as a treatment for piles; the current sense dates from the late 16th cent.

Fi-ji /'fɛjə/ a republic in the South Pacific consisting of a group of more than 800 islands, of which about a hundred are inhabited; pop. 944,700 (est. 2009); capital, Suva; languages, English (official), Fijian, and Hindi.

First visited by Abel Tasman in 1643; the Fiji Islands became a British Crown Colony in 1874 and independent within the Commonwealth of Nations in 1970. In 1987, following a coup, Fiji became a republic and withdrew from the Commonwealth.

Fi-ji-an /'fɛjēən, fi'jēən/ ► *adj.* of or relating to Fiji, its people, or language.

► *n.* 1 a native or inhabitant of Fiji, or a person of Fijian descent.

2 the Austronesian language of the indigenous people of Fiji.

fil-a-beg /'fɪlə,beg/ ► *n.* variant spelling of **FILAREE**.

fil-a-gree /'fɪlə,grē/ ► *n.* variant spelling of **FILAREE**.

fil-a-ment /'fɪləmənt/ ► *n.* a slender threadlike object or fiber, esp. one found in animal or plant structures: *a filament of cellulose.* ■ a conducting wire or thread with a high melting point, forming part of an electric bulb or vacuum tube and heated or made incandescent by an electric current. ■ *Botany* the slender part of a stamen that supports the anther. ■ *Astronomy* a narrow streamer from the sun's chromosphere or in its corona. ■ *Astronomy* a narrow streamer of gas in an interstellar cloud or nebula.

— **DERIVATIVES** **fil-a-men-ta-ry** /'fɪləmentəri/ *adj.*, **fil-a-men-ted** *adj.*, **fil-a-men-tous** /-mentəs/ *adj.*

— **ORIGIN** late 16th cent.: from French, or from modern Latin *filamentum*, from late Latin *filare* 'to spin,' from Latin *filum* 'thread.'

fi-lar-i-a /'fɛlə(r)ɪə/ ► *n.* (pl. *filariae* /-le(ə)rē, -ē, -ɪ/) a threadlike parasitic nematode worm transmitted by biting flies and mosquitoes, causing filariasis and related diseases. ● Superfamily Filarioidea, class Phasmatida.

— **DERIVATIVES** **fi-lar-i-al** /-le(ə)rɪəl/ *adj.*

— **ORIGIN** mid 19th cent.: from modern Latin *Filaria* (former genus name), from Latin *filum* 'thread.'

fil-a-ri-a-sis /'fɪlə'rɪəsɪs/ ► *n.* Medicine a tropical disease caused by the presence of filarial worms; esp. in the lymph vessels where heavy infestation can result in elephantiasis.

fil-a-ture /'fɪlə,tʃər, -tʃɔːr/ ► *n.* the process of obtaining silk thread from silkworm cocoons. ■ an establishment where such activity takes place.

— **ORIGIN** mid 18th cent.: from French, from Italian *filatura*, from *filare* 'to spin.'

fil-bert /'fɪlbɜ:t/ ► *n.* 1 a cultivated hazel tree that bears edible oval nuts. ● Genus *Corylus*, family Betulaceae: several species, in particular the **giant filbert** (*Corylus maxima*). ■ the nut of this tree.

2 (also **filbert brush**) a brush with bristles forming a flattened oval head, used in oil painting.

— **ORIGIN** Middle English *fyliberd*, from Anglo-Norman French *philbert*, dialect French *noix de*

PHRASES **look one's age** appear to be as old as one really is. **look alive** see **LIVELY**. **look before you leap** proverb one shouldn't act without first considering the possible consequences or dangers. **look daggers** at see **DAGGER**. **look down one's nose** at another way of saying **look down on**. **look for trouble** see **TROUBLE**. **look someone in the eye** (or **face**) look directly at someone without showing embarrassment, fear, or shame. **look lively** see **STRAVE**. **look the other way** deliberately ignore wrongdoing by others: *he took the other way at corrupt practices here*. **look sharp** be quick. **look small** see **SMALL**. **look to the future** consider and plan for what is in the future, rather than worrying about the past or present. **look someone up** and **down** scrutinize someone carefully.

PHRASAL VERBS **look after** take care of: *women who stay at home to look after children*. **look back** 1 think of the past: *don't waste time looking back on things that have caused you distress*. 2 [with negative] suffer a setback or interrupted progress: *she launched her own company in 1981 and has never looked back*. **look down on** regard (someone) with a feeling of superiority. **look forward** to await eagerly: *we look forward to seeing you*. **look in** make a short visit or call: *I will look in on you tomorrow*. **look on** watch without getting involved: *Cameron was looking on and making no move to help*. **look out** [usu. in imperative] be vigilant and take notice: *"Look out!" warned Billie, seeing a movement from the room beyond*. **look out for** the early warning signals. **look something out** Brit. search for and produce something: *I've got a catalog somewhere and I'll look it out if you're interested*. **look up** (of a situation) improve: *things seemed to be looking up at last*. **look someone up** informal make social contact with someone. **look something up** search for and find a piece of information in a reference book. **look up to** have a great deal of respect for (someone): *he needed a model, someone to look up to*.

ORIGIN Old English *lōcian* (verb); related to German dialect *lügen*.

look-a-like (also **lookalike**) ▶ n. a person or thing that closely resembles another, esp. someone who looks very similar to a famous person: *an Elvis Presley look-alike*.

look-and-say ▶ n. [as modifier] denoting a method of teaching reading based on the visual recognition of words rather than by the association of sounds and letters. Compare with **PHONIC**.

look-book /'lʊk bʊk/ ▶ n. a set of photographs displaying a fashion designer's new collection, assembled for marketing purposes.

look-er /'lʊkər/ ▶ n. 1 a person who looks: *the percentage of lookers who actually buy is pretty low*. 2 [usu. as] a person with a specified appearance: *a tough looker is not necessarily a tough fighter*. 3 informal a very attractive person, esp. a woman: *he look his head in admiration—she was some looker*.

look-er-on ▶ n. (pl. **lookers-on**) a person who is a spectator rather than a participant in a situation.

look-in ▶ n. 1 Football a short pass pattern in which the receiver runs diagonally toward the center of the field. 2 informal a chance to take part or succeed in something: *they didn't let the other side get a look-in in the semifinal*.

looking glass ▶ n. a mirror: *she stared at her reflection in the looking glass*. ■ [as modifier] being involved in the opposite of what is normal or expected: *a looking-glass land* | *looking-glass logic*.

look-ism /'lʊk ɪzəm/ ▶ n. construction of a standard for beauty and attractiveness, and judgments made about people on the basis of how well or poorly they meet the standard.

look-it /'lʊk ɪt/ informal ▶ v. phonetic spelling of "look at": *hey, lookit that!* ▶ **lookit**, *Pete, this is serious*.

look-out /'lʊk aʊt/ ▶ n. 1 a place from which to keep watch or view landscape. 2 a person stationed to look out for danger or trouble: *they acted as lookouts at the post office*. 3 archaic a view over a landscape. 4 (one's **lookout**) informal a person's own situation: *everyone's life is his own lookout*. 5 [in sing.] used to indicate whether a likely outcome is good or bad: *"What if he gets sick?" "It's a look-out in that case."*

look-out (or **keep a lookout**) ▶ v. be alert to (danger or trouble): *he told them to be on the lookout for dangerous gas*. ■ keep searching for something that is wanted: *we kept a sharp lookout for animals*.

look-out Mountain /'lʊk aʊt/ an Appalachian ridge on the Cumberland Plateau in Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee; near Chattanooga. It was the scene of a November 1863 Civil War battle.

look-see ▶ n. informal a brief look or inspection: *we are just about to take a little look-see around the hotel*.

ORIGIN late 19th cent.: from, or in imitation of, pidgin English.

look-up /'lʊk ʌp/ ▶ n. [usu. as modifier] the action of or a facility for systematic electronic information retrieval. a facility for lookup: *you need an online dictionary with fast phonetic lookup*.

look-y /'lʊk ɪ/ (also **lookie**) ▶ exclam. informal used to draw attention to what one is about to say: *Looky there! You've gone and broken it*.

loom¹ /'lʊm/ ▶ n. an apparatus for making fabric by weaving yarn or thread.

ORIGIN Old English *gelōma* 'tool,' shortened to *lome* in Middle English.



loom¹

loom² ▶ v. [no obj.] appear as a shadowy form, esp. one that is large or threatening: *vehicles loomed out of the darkness*. ■ (of an event regarded as ominous or threatening) seem about to happen: *there is a crisis looming* | *higher mortgage rates loomed large last night*.

▶ n. [in sing.] a vague and often exaggerated first appearance of an object seen in darkness or fog, esp. at sea: *the loom of the land ahead*. ■ the dim reflection by cloud or haze of a light that is not directly visible, e.g., from a lighthouse over the horizon.

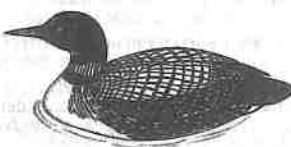
ORIGIN mid 16th cent.: probably from Low German or Dutch; compare with East Frisian *lōmen* 'move slowly,' Middle High German *lūmen* 'be weary.'

loon¹ /'lʊn/ ▶ n. informal a silly or foolish person.

ORIGIN late 19th cent.: from **loom²** (referring to the bird's actions when escaping from danger), perhaps influenced by **LOONY**.

loon² ▶ n. a large diving waterbird with a sleek black or gray head, a straight pointed bill, and short legs set far back under the body. Loons breed by lakes in northern latitudes and have wailing calls. ● Family Gaviidae and genus *Gavia*: five species, including the common loon (G. immer) of both Canada and Eurasia.

ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: probably by alteration of Shetland dialect *loom*, denoting esp. a guillemot or a diver, from Old Norse.



common loon

loon-ey tunes (also **loony-tunes** informal ▶ adj. crazy; deranged: *a looney tunes initiative for easing the parking problem*.

▶ n. crazy or deranged people.

ORIGIN 1980s: from *Looney Tunes*, the name of an animated cartoon series that began in the 1930s, featuring Bugs Bunny and other characters.

loon-ie /'lʊni/ ▶ n. (pl. **loonies**) Canadian informal a Canadian one-dollar coin, introduced in 1987.

loon-y /'lʊni/ informal ▶ n. (pl. **loonies**) a crazy or silly person: *she was working with a bunch of loonies*.

▶ adj. (loonyer, **looniest**) crazy or silly: *loony drivers*.

DERIVATIVES **loon-i-ness** n.

ORIGIN mid 19th cent.: abbreviation of **LUNATIC**.

loon-y bin ▶ n. informal, offensive a home or hospital for people who are mentally ill.

loop /'lʊp/ ▶ n. 1 a shape produced by a curve that bends around and crosses itself. ■ a length of thread, rope, or similar material, doubled or crossing itself, typically used as a fastening or handle. ■ a curved stroke forming part of a letter (e.g., b, p). ■ (also **loop-the-loop**) a maneuver in which an aircraft describes a vertical circle in the air. ■ Skating a maneuver describing a curve that crosses itself, made on a single edge. ■ (**the Loop**) informal name for the commercial district in downtown Chicago.

2 a structure, series, or process the end of which is connected to the beginning. ■ an endless strip of tape or film allowing continuous repetition. ■ a complete circuit for an electric current. ■ Computing a programmed sequence of instructions that is repeated until or while a particular condition is satisfied.

▶ v. form (something) into a loop or loops; encircle: *she looped her arms around his neck*. ■ follow a course that forms a loop or loops: *the canal loops for two miles through the city*. ■ put into or execute a loop of tape, film, or computing instructions: *the program loops back on reaching a RETURN statement*. ■ (also **loop the loop**) circle an aircraft vertically in the air.

PHRASES **in** (or **out of**) **the loop** informal aware (or unaware) of information known to only a privileged few. **throw** (or **knock**) **someone for a loop** informal surprise or astonish someone; catch someone off guard.

ORIGIN late Middle English: of unknown origin; compare with Scottish Gaelic *lùb* 'loop, bend.'

loop di-u-retic ▶ n. Medicine a powerful diuretic that inhibits resorption of water and sodium from the loop of Henle.

looper /'lʊpər/ ▶ n. 1 another term for **INCHWORM**.

2 Baseball a fly ball that becomes a hit by dropping out of the reach of the infielders.

loop-hole /'lʊp(h)l/ ▶ n. 1 an ambiguity or inadequacy in the law or a set of rules: *they exploited tax loopholes*.

2 historical an arrow slit in a wall.

▶ v. [with obj.] make arrow slits in (a wall or building).

ORIGIN late 16th cent. (denoting an arrow slit): from obsolete *loop* 'embrasure' + **HOLE**.

loop of Henle /'henlə/ ▶ n. Anatomy the part of a kidney tubule that forms a long loop in the medulla of the kidney, from which water and salts are resorbed into the blood.

ORIGIN mid 19th cent.: named after Friedrich G. J. Henle (1809–85), German anatomist.

loop stitch ▶ n. a method of sewing or knitting in which each stitch incorporates a free loop of thread for ornament or to give a thick pile.

DERIVATIVES **loop-stitched** adj., **loop stitching** n.

loop-y /'lʊp ɪ/ ▶ adj. (loopier, **loopiest**) 1 informal crazy or silly: *the author comes across as a bit loop-y*.

2 having many loops: *a big, loop-y signature*.

DERIVATIVES **loop-i-ness** n.

Loos /'lʊs/, Anita (1893–1981) US writer. She wrote stories collected in *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* (1925) that involved the character Lorelei Lee and that were later adapted for the stage and the screen.

loose /'lʊs/ ▶ adj. 1 not firmly or tightly fixed in place; detached or able to be detached: *a loose tooth* | *the truck's trailer came loose*. ■ not held or tied together; not packaged or placed in a container: *wear your hair loose* | *pockets bulging with loose change*. ■ (of a person or animal) free from confinement; not bound or tethered: *the bull was loose with cattle in the field* | *the tethered horses broke loose*. ■ not strict or exact: *a loose interpretation*. ■ not close or compact in structure: *a loose weave* | figurative *a loose federation of political and industrial groups*. ■ typical of diarrhea: *many patients report loose bowel movements*.

2 (of a garment) not fitting tightly or closely: *she slipped into a loose T-shirt and shorts*.

3 relaxed; physically slack: *she swung back into her easy, loose stride*. ■ careless and indiscreet in what is said: *there is too much loose talk about the situation*.

■ dated promiscuous; immoral: *she ran the risk of being called a loose woman*. ■ (of the ball in a game) in play but not in any player's possession.

▶ v. [with obj.] set free; release: *the hounds have been loosed*. ■ untie; unfasten: *the ropes were loosed*.

■ relax (one's grip): *he loosed his grip suddenly*.

PHRASES **hang** (or **stay**) **loose** [often as imperative] informal be relaxed; refrain from taking anything too seriously: *hang loose, baby!* | **on the loose** having escaped from confinement: *a serial killer is on the loose*.

DERIVATIVES **loose-ly** adv., **loose-ness** n.

ORIGIN Middle English *loos* 'free from bonds,' from Old Norse *lauss*, of Germanic origin; related to Dutch and German *los*.

USAGE The adjective *loose*, meaning 'not tight,' should not be confused with the verb *loose*, which means 'let go': *they loosed the reins and let the horse gallop*. This verb in turn should not be confused with the verb *lose*, which means 'be deprived of, fail to keep': *I will lose my keys if I don't mend the hole in my pocket*.

PRONUNCIATION KEY ə go, up; ər over, fur; a hat; ā ate; ā car, e let; ē see; i fit; i by; NG sing; ō go; ō law, for; ō toy; ō good; ōō goo; ou out; TH thin; TH then; ZH vision