

# BLOOMSBURY ENGLISH DICTIONARY

BLOOMSBURY

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body *o handed in her notice* 2. to return or surrender something, especially something lost or illegal  
**hand off** *vt* in rugby, to push or hold an opponent away or deflect a tackle with an open hand  
**hand on** *vt* to pass something to the next person or generation  
**hand out** *vt* 1. to distribute or give something by hand 2. to administer or award something  
**hand over** *v* 1. *vt* to surrender somebody, or give something away to somebody else *o handed over the suspects* 2. *vt* to transfer control of a commentary during a broadcast to somebody else *o I'll now hand you over to our match commentator*.

**HAND** *abbr* ONLINE have a nice day (used in e-mails or text messages)

**hand axe** *n* a chipped stone tool rounded at one end and pointed at the other, used for a variety of purposes during the Lower and Middle Palaeolithic periods

**handbag** /hánd bag/ *n* 1. WOMAN'S SMALL BAG a small bag, with or without a strap or handle, used by women to carry personal items such as keys, money, and cosmetics. N Am term *purse* 2. TRAVELLING BAG a small light travelling bag that is easily carried by hand ■ *vt* (-bags, -bagging, -bagged) ATTACK SOMEBODY OR SOMETHING VERBALLY to make a strong verbal attack on somebody or something (*informal*; refers to women)

**handball** /hánd bawl/ *n* 1. PROHIBITED HANDLING OF FOOTBALL in football, a rule infringement committed when a player other than a goalkeeper inside his or her penalty area uses a hand to control the ball 2. BALL GAME PLAYED AGAINST WALL a game for two or four people in which players hit a small hard ball against a wall with their hands 3. BALL USED IN HANDBALL the small hard rubber or synthetic ball used in the game of handball 4. GOAL-SCORING BALL GAME a team game similar to basketball in which players dribble the ball and pass it, and goals are scored by hitting the ball into the goal with the hand 5. FOOTBALL same as *handpass* ■ *vt* (-balls, -balling, -balled) FOOTBALL same as *handpass* —handballer *n*

**handbarrow** /hánd barrō/ *n* a flat rectangular board for transporting loads that has a pair of handles at each end and is carried by two people

**handbasin** /hánd bayss'n/ *n* same as *washbasin*

**handbell** /hánd bel/ *n* a small bell held in the hand to be rung, often one of a tuned set used to play a musical piece or to practise ring-changing

**handbill** /hánd bil/ *n* a small sheet of paper with a notice or advertisement printed on it, distributed by hand

**handblown** /hánd blōn/ *adj* describes glassware blown using a hand-held tube *o a handblown vase*

**handbook** /hánd bōók/ *n* 1. REFERENCE BOOK a reference book, especially one small enough to be carried in the hand, giving concise information on a particular subject *o a handbook of English-French expressions* 2. MANUAL a concise manual explaining how something works or how to use it 3. SHORT TRAVEL GUIDE a concise guide designed to help travellers and tourists find their way around a region, city, or other geographical location

**handbrake** /hánd Brayk/ *n* 1. a brake operated manually by a lever, used to prevent a vehicle from rolling when stationary. N Am term *emergency brake* 2. either of two manual brakes on the handlebars of a bicycle or motorcycle, used to slow or stop the vehicle

**handbreadth** /hánd bredth, -breth/, *hand's-breadth* *n* the width of a hand, used as an approximate measure of length

**h & c** *abbr* hot and cold (water)

**handcart** /hánd kaart/ *n* a small cart with two or four wheels, pulled or pushed by hand

**handclap** /hánd klap/ *n* a clapping of the hands, done to gain attention, applaud, or keep a rhythm

**handclasp** /hánd klaasp/ *n* US same as *handshake* (sense 1)

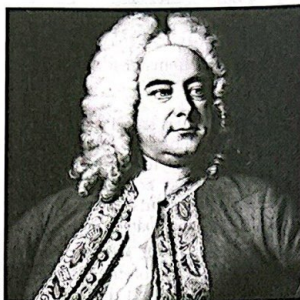
**handcraft** /hánd kraaft/ *n* ARTS same as *handicraft* (sense 3) ■ *vt* (-crafts, -crafting, -crafted) to make something using manual skill —handcrafter *n*

**handcuff** /hánd kuf/ *n* WRIST RESTRAINTS either of a pair of joined metal rings locked around somebody's wrists as a restraint (*usually used in the plural*) ■ *vt* (-cuffs, -cuffing, -cuffed) 1. PUT SOMEBODY IN HANDCUFFS to

restrain somebody by using handcuffs 2. GREATLY HAMPER SOMEBODY OR SOMETHING to make somebody or something ineffective *o handcuffed by bureaucratic regulations*

**-handed** *suffix* 1. using or involving a particular hand *o right-handed* 2. involving a particular number of people *o four-handed chess*

**handedness** /hándidnæss/ *n* 1. the tendency to prefer the use of one hand over the other 2. the property of some objects whereby they cannot be superimposed on their mirror images



George Frederick Handel

**Handel** /hánd'l/, George Frederick (1685–1759) German-born British composer. He is best known for his oratorio *Messiah* (1742) and the orchestral suites *Music for the Royal Fireworks* (1749) and *Water Music* (1717). Born Händel Georg Friedrich

**hand-eye coordination** *n* the ability to perform tasks that involve coordinating the movement of the hands and eyes, e.g. catching or hitting a ball

**handfeed** /hánd feed/ (-feeds, -feeding, -fed /-fed/) *vt* 1. to feed a person or animal by hand 2. to feed material into a machine by hand rather than by means of an automatic or machine feed

**handful** /hánd fōl/ *n* 1. AMOUNT CONTAINED BY HAND an amount that can be held in the hand 2. SMALL AMOUNT OR NUMBER a small amount or number of people or things *o Only a handful of students turned up for the lecture* 3. SOMEBODY OR SOMETHING DIFFICULT somebody or something that is difficult to cope with or control (*informal*) *o Together those two are a real handful!*

**CULTURAL NOTE** *A Handful of Dust*, a novel (1934) by Evelyn Waugh. One of Waugh's early satires, it tells the story of Tony Last, a haughty country gentleman whose wife leaves him for a young socialite. His response is to set off on an ill-advised expedition to South America, where he ends up the captive of an eccentric local with a penchant for Dickens.

**hand glass** *n* 1. a magnifying glass with a handle for holding in the hand 2. a small mirror for holding in the hand (*dated*) 3. GARDENING same as *cold frame*

**hand grenade** *n* a small bomb designed to be thrown by hand and detonated by a time fuse

**handgrip** /hánd grip/ *n* 1. same as *grip* *n* (sense 2) 2. HANDLE a handle, or the part of something that can be held with the hand *o My motorbike needs a new handgrip* 3. COVERING FOR HANDLE a piece of material that covers a handle and makes it easier to keep hold of 4. TRAVELLING BAG a small light travelling bag that is easily carried by hand

**handgun** /hánd gun/ *n* a gun that can be held and fired in one hand

**hand-held** *adj* 1. HELD IN HAND made to be operated while held in the hand 2. CINEMA, MEDIA SHOT WITH PORTABLE CAMERA filmed with a camera that is carried by the operator rather than mounted on a support *o black-and-white hand-held footage* ■ *n* COMPUT SMALL COMPUTER a pocket-sized computer or personal digital assistant that accepts handwritten or keyboard input

**handhold** /hánd hōld/ *n* 1. something that somebody climbing can grasp for support, e.g. a projecting piece of rock or a fissure in a cliff face 2. a firm grip with the hand or hands

**handholding** /hánd hōlding/ *n* the giving of reassurance and guidance to somebody

**hand-hot** *adj* describes hot water that is not too hot for putting the bare hands into

**handicap** /hándi kap/ *n* 1. HINDERANCE something that hinders or is a disadvantage to somebody or something 2. HORSE RACING, SPORTS BALANCED CONTEST a contest, especially a horse race, in which individual competitors are given an advantage or disadvantage in an attempt to give every contestant an equal chance *o a handicap race* 3. ADDED ADVANTAGE OR DISADVANTAGE an advantage or disadvantage given to a competitor in a handicap 4. GOLF GOLFER'S COMPENSATION IN STROKES a compensation in strokes given to a golfer on the basis of skill in past performances 5. MEDICAL CONDITION a physical or mental disability (*often considered offensive*) ■ *vt* (-caps, -capping, -capped) 1. HINDER SOMEBODY OR SOMETHING to hinder or be a disadvantage to somebody or something 2. HORSE RACING, SPORTS GIVE HANDICAP TO COMPETITOR to give an advantage or disadvantage to a competitor in a contest, especially a horse race [Mid-17C. < *hand in cap* 'betting game in which contestants place their hands in a hat with their wagers']

**ORIGIN** In the original game of *handicap*, one contestant put up an item of personal property against something belonging to the other contestant, offering to exchange the one for the other. An umpire adjudicated on the difference in value between the two articles. The contestants then placed their hands in a hat, along with some forfeit money, and the way in which they withdrew their hands – full or empty – signified whether they accepted the adjudication. If they both either accepted or rejected it, the umpire got the forfeit money; if they disagreed, the one who accepted it got the money. The application to horseracing arose in the 18th century from the notion of an umpire adjudicating on the weight disadvantage to be given to a specific horse.

**handicapped** /hándi kapt/ *adj* 1. DISABLED having a physical or mental disability (*often considered offensive*) 2. FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES for use by people with disabilities *o the handicapped entrance near the car park* ■ *npl* OFFENSIVE TERM an offensive term for people who have a physical or mental disability

**USAGE** Although *handicapped* has a long history of use by those so affected, *disabled* and *people with disabilities* are preferred over the adjective and noun uses of *handicapped* when referring to people.

**handicapper** /hándi kappər/ *n* 1. somebody who assigns handicaps to competitors in a contest, especially to racehorses 2. somebody who forecasts horse-race results, especially somebody who provides published advice to betters

**handicraft** /hándi kraaft/ *n* 1. CRAFT a craft or occupation in which manual skill is needed, e.g. weaving 2. OBJECT MADE BY HAND something made using manual skill 3. MANUAL SKILL skill in making things with the hands [13C. Alteration of *HANDCRAFT*, after *HANDIWORK*] —handicrafter *n*

**handily** /hándil/ *adv* 1. CONVENIENTLY in a convenient way *o handily close to the station* 2. SKILFULLY in a skilful way 3. N Am EASILY in an easy way *o She took the second seat handily*.

**handiwork** /hándi wɜrk/ *n* 1. SOMEBODY'S DOING the result of a particular person's action *o The broken window was the handiwork of local vandals* 2. WORK DONE BY HAND work done or produced by hand 3. SKILL WITH WHICH SOMETHING IS DONE the skill with which something is done, especially something requiring manual skill [Old English *handgeweorc* < *hand* 'hand' + *geweorc* 'body of work' < *weorc* 'work']

**hand-jam** *n* an act of wedging the hand into a rock crack to aid in climbing

**hand job** *n* an offensive term for the act of masturbation

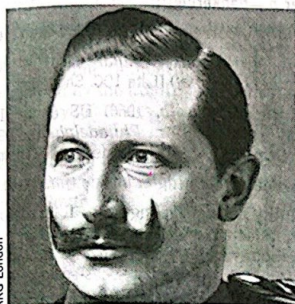
**handkerchief** /hángkər chif, -cheef/ (*plural* -chiefs or -chieves /-cheevz/) *n* a square of cloth or absorbent paper used mainly to wipe areas of the face, especially the nose

**hand-knit** *vt* to knit something by hand, not on a machine

**handle** /hándl/ *v* (-dles, -dling, -dled) 1. *vt* TOUCH SOMETHING to touch, pick up, or move something with the hands *o Don't handle the merchandise* 2. *vt* OPERATE SOMETHING to operate or make use of something with the hands 3. *vt* TAKE CHARGE OF SOMETHING to take care of or be responsible for something *o Who handles the import side of the business?* 4. *vt* DEAL WITH SOMEBODY OR SOMETHING to deal with or cope with

somebody or something ○ *She's good at handling difficult customers.* 5. **VT BE MANAGER OF SOMEBODY** to manage or supervise somebody ○ *He handles a string of professional boxers.* 6. **VT BE ABOUT SOMETHING** to discuss or deal with a subject ○ *an article handling the subject of global warming* 7. **VT TRADE IN SOMETHING** to deal in particular goods, sometimes illegally 8. **VI RESPOND TO CONTROL** to respond to control or use, often in a particular way ○ *The little yacht handled like a dream.* ■ **n 1. PART FOR HOLDING OR OPERATING** something a part of a thing by which it is held, moved, or operated 2. **MEANS** an opportunity, pretext, or means of doing something 3. **NAME** somebody's name (slang) ○ *What's your handle?* 4. **UK, ANZ, Can** TEXTILES **FEEL OF TEXTILE** the feel of a fabric, used to determine its quality. **US term hand** 5. **US GAMBLING** **TOTAL AMOUNT BET** the total sum of money bet on a race, series of races, or other event [Old English *handlian* (verb), *handle* (noun) < HAND] —**handleability** /hánd'la bilatí/ **n** —**handleable** **adj** —**handleless** **adj** ○ **fly off the handle** to lose your temper, especially without justification (informal) ○ **get a handle on something** to understand or be able to control a situation fully ○ *It's a difficult problem to get a handle on.*

**handlebar** /hánd'l báar/ **n** a bar with handles at each end, used to steer a vehicle such as a bicycle or motorcycle



handlebar moustache: William II, Emperor of Germany and King of Prussia (photographed in 1898)

**handlebar moustache** **n** a thick broad moustache that curls up at the ends

**handler** /hándlér/ **n 1. ANIMAL TRAINER** somebody who trains or manages a working animal, e.g. a police dog or a show dog 2. **BOXER'S TRAINER** a boxer's trainer or second 3. **MANAGER** somebody who manages the career of somebody or the running of something 4. **DEALER OR OPERATOR** somebody who works or deals with a particular thing ○ *a baggage handler* 5. **COMPUTER PART OF COMPUTER PROGRAM** a part of a computer program that handles a particular operation or problem

**handling** /hándling/ **n 1. WAY SOMEBODY HANDLES SOMETHING** the way in which somebody handles or deals with something ○ *The report criticized his handling of the affair.* 2. **TREATMENT** the way in which a subject is treated or dealt with in a written work or other work of art 3. **SOMETHING'S RESPONSE** the way in which something responds to control or use ○ *the car's excellent handling* 4. **USE OF HANDS TO DO SOMETHING** the act of touching, moving, or operating something with the hands ○ *baggage handling* 5. **COPING WITH SOMEBODY OR SOMETHING** the act of dealing with something, or of managing or supervising somebody 6. **COMM TRANSPORT AND PACKAGING** the transport and packaging of goods ○ *The cost includes a charge for handling.* 7. **RECEIVING STOLEN GOODS** the receiving of goods known to be stolen

**handling charge** **n** a charge levied by a shop or other organization for obtaining, packaging, and sending a particular item

**handmade** /hánd máyd/ **adj** made by hand, not by machine ○ *handmade furniture*

**handmaid** /hánd mayd/, **handmaiden** /-mayd'n/ **n 1.** something that provides help or support in a subsidiary role (literary) ○ *Hard work and focus are the handmaids of genius.* 2. a woman or girl servant (archaic)

**hand-me-down** **n 1.** an item of clothing, usually outgrown, passed down from a family member or friend to another 2. something taken up or used by a person or group that has been used before and discarded

**hand-off** **n** in rugby, a pushing or holding away of an opponent or a deflection of a tackle with an open hand

**handout** /hánd ow/ **n 1.** something given as charity to somebody in need, e.g. money or food 2. a document that is distributed to a group, e.g. a press release, an advertisement, or material accompanying a meeting or lecture

**handover** /hánd'óvər/ **n 1.** a surrendering of somebody or a giving away of something to somebody else ○ *the handover of power to the civilian authorities* 2. a transfer of the control of the commentary during a broadcast to somebody else

**handpainted** /hánd páyntid/ **adj** painted individually by hand

**handpass** /hánd paass/ **n** in Australian Rules, a pass made by striking the ball with the fist ■ **vi** (-passes, -passing, -passed) in Australian Rules, to pass the ball by striking it with the fist

**handphone** /hánd fón/ **n** Malaysia, Singapore TELECOM same as **mobile phone**

**hand-pick** **vt 1.** to choose somebody or something with care and personal attention, especially for a particular purpose ○ *need to hand-pick people we can trust* 2. to pick or harvest something by hand, not by machine —**hand-picked** **adj**

**hand plant** **n** in skateboarding, a move in which the board is held to the feet with one hand while the skateboarder performs a handstand on a ramp or obstacle with the other

**hand press** **n** a printing press operated by hand

**handprint** /hánd print/ **n** a mark or impression made by the palm of the hand and fingers

**hand puppet** **n** US same as **glove puppet**

**handrail** /hánd rayl/ **n** a rail to hold with the hand for support, e.g. at the side of stairs or a ramp

**handsaw** /hánd saw/ **n** a saw for use with one hand

**hand's-breadth** **n** MEASURE same as **handbreadth**

**hands down** **adv 1.** in a way that is not open to question ○ *They won hands down.* 2. without encountering any problems, obstacles, or opposition ○ *whizzed through the exam hands down* [*a jockey not needing to ride hard to win*] —**hands-down** **adj**

**hansel** /hánsəl/, **hansel** (archaic) **n 1. GOOD-LUCK GIFT** a gift given for good luck at the beginning of something, especially a new year 2. **FIRST PAYMENT** a first payment for something, or the first money taken in by a new business ■ **vt** (-sels, -selling, -selled) 1. **GIVE GOOD-LUCK GIFT TO SOMEBODY** to give somebody a good-luck gift at the beginning of something, especially a new year 2. **INAUGURATE SOMETHING** to begin or launch something with ceremony 3. **USE SOMETHING FOR FIRST TIME** to use or do something for the first time [14C. Blend of Old English *hanselen* 'a handing over' + Old Norse *hansal* 'giving the hand']

**handset** /hánd set/ **n** the part of a telephone that is held in the hand and contains the parts used for speaking into and listening to

**hands-free** **adj** describes devices that allow somebody to use portable communications equipment such as mobile phones or two-way radios without having to hold them —**handsfree** /hándz fréel/ **adv**

**handshake** /hánd shayk/ **n 1.** a gesture of gripping and shaking another person's hand, used as a greeting or farewell and to seal an agreement 2. an exchange of signals between a computer and another computer or external device indicating that a link is established and communication is possible —**handshaking** **n**

**hands-off** **adj** not wanting or needing to interfere in or control something ○ *a hands-off policy with respect to the running of the business*

**handsome** /hánsəm/ **adj 1. GOOD-LOOKING** with good-looking facial features or a pleasing general appearance 2. **SUBSTANTIAL** pleasingly large in extent or size ○ *won by a handsome margin* ○ *earning a handsome salary* 3. **PLEASINGLY WELL MADE** of obvious high quality ○ *published in two handsome volumes* [15C. Originally 'easy to handle', then 'handy, suitable'] —**handsomeness** **n**

**SYNONYMS** See **good-looking**.

**handsomely** /hánsəmli/ **adv** in an amount that is more than expected

**hands-on** **adj 1. USING SOMETHING** involving the actual use or doing of something ○ *a hands-on carpentry course* 2. **INVOLVING PHYSICAL TOUCHING** involving physical touching of something ○ *a museum with hands-on exhibits for children* 3. **PERSONALLY INVOLVED** giving personal attention to or taking personal control of somebody or something ○ *a hands-on manager*

**handspike** /hánd spík/ **n** a metal bar used as a lever [Early 16C. Alteration of Dutch *handspak* < *hand* 'hand' + *spak* 'spoke']

**handspring** /hánd spring/ **n** a gymnastic movement in which somebody flips the body forwards or backwards and lands briefly on the hands before continuing the flip so as to land on the feet again

**handstand** /hánd stand/ **n** an act of balancing the body on the hands with the legs straight up in the air

**hand-to-hand** **adj** taking place at close quarters and involving bodily contact ○ *hand-to-hand fighting* —**hand to hand** **adv**

**hand-to-mouth** **adj** having barely enough money or food for daily needs —**hand to mouth** **adv**

**handwork** /hánd wɜrk/ **n** work done by hand, not by a machine —**handworker** **n**

**handwoven** /hánd wóv'n/ **adj 1.** woven on a hand-operated loom, not a mechanical one 2. woven using the hands

**handwringing** /hánd ring'ing/ **n 1.** the demonstration or expression of concern about something, often without any constructive action being taken 2. the repeated clapping and squeezing of the hands together as a result of anxiety or grief

**handwrite** /hánd rít/ (-writes, -writing, -wrote /-rɒt/, -written /-ritt'n/) **vt** to write something by hand using a pen or pencil

**handwriting** /hánd rít'ing/ **n 1.** writing done by hand using a pen or pencil 2. somebody's individual way of writing by hand ○ *I recognized my father's handwriting on the envelope.* ○ **see the handwriting on the wall** to foresee a future disaster or decline in somebody's fortunes

**handwritten** /hánd rítt'n/ **past participle of** **handwrite** ■ **adj** written by hand rather than typed or printed ○ *a handwritten letter*

**handwrote** **past tense of** **handwrite**

**handwrought** /hánd ráwt/ **adj** shaped by hand, especially by hammering

**handy** /hándi/ (-ier, -iest) **adj 1. CONVENIENT** located in a convenient place, especially nearby and easy to reach 2. **USEFUL** useful or easy to use 3. **SKILFUL** skilful at doing a number of different things —**handiness** **n**

**handyman** /hándi man/ (**plural** -men /-mən/) **n** somebody who is skilled at doing, or paid to do, small jobs such as household repairs

**handyperson** /hándi pɜrs'n/ (**plural** -persons or -people /-pi:p'n/) **n 1.** somebody who earns pay by doing varied small maintenance and repair jobs 2. somebody who has the experience and skill to perform a variety of small maintenance and repair jobs

**handywoman** /hándi wówmən/ (**plural** -women /-wim'n/) **n 1.** a woman who has the experience and skill to perform a variety of small maintenance and repair jobs 2. a woman who earns pay by doing varied small maintenance and repair jobs

**hang** /hang/ **v** (hangs, hanging, hung /hʌŋ/) 1. **VT SUSPEND** to suspend or fasten something so that it is held up from above and not supported from below, or be suspended or fastened in this way 2. **VT FIX SOMETHING ON HINGES** to fix something such as a door on hinges so that it can move freely 3. **VT DISPLAY PAINTING** to put pictures or paintings on display, or be put on display 4. **VT PUT DECORATIONS ON SOMETHING** to decorate or furnish a place or object with something ○ *trees hung with lights* 5. **VT PUT UP WALLPAPER** to fix wallpaper onto walls, usually using a paste solution 6. (**past tense and past participle** **hanged**) **VT KILL SOMEBODY WITH ROPE** to kill somebody or yourself by fastening a rope round the neck and removing any other support for the body, or die in this way, especially as a form of legal execution 7. **VT LET SOMETHING DROOP** to let something, especially the head, droop ○ *hung their heads in shame* 8. **VI BE UNRESOLVED** to be unresolved or in doubt ○ *His academic future hangs in the balance.* 9. **VT FOLD OR DROOP** to fold or bend something

or brain stem away from the central nervous system towards a muscle or gland

**motor neuron disease** *n* a progressive degenerative disease involving the motor neurons and causing weakness and wasting of the muscles

**motor neurone** *n* ANAT same as **motor neuron**

**motor park** *n* W Africa TRANSP same as **car park**

**motor pool** *n* N Am BUSINESS, TRANSP same as **car pool** (sense 2)

**motor protein** *n* any of a group of cell proteins that use chemical energy from ATP to create movement within cells, e.g. by separating chromosomes during cell division and transporting neurotransmitters inside nerve cells

**motor racing** *n* UK, Aus, Can the sport of racing in motor vehicles, especially in cars that are specially designed to travel at high speeds. US term **auto racing**

**motor rhythm** *n* a rhythmic motif in a piece of music maintaining a constant pulse, usually at a fast tempo, for an extended period

**motorsailer** /mōtər saylər/ *n* a sailing boat equipped with a motor

**motor scooter** *n* a light motorcycle with small wheels, an enclosed engine, and a framework that includes a protective front plate and support for the rider's feet

**motor ship** *n* a ship powered by an engine

**motorsport** /mōtər spawt/ *n* a sport in which participants race motor vehicles, usually around a track

**motor torpedo boat** *n* UK a highly manoeuvrable vessel, 18 to 30 m/60 to 100 ft in length, carrying light armament and used to torpedo enemy shipping. ANZ, N Am term **PT boat**

**motor unit** *n* a motor neuron and the muscle fibres it acts on

**motor vehicle** *n* a car, lorry, or other road vehicle powered by an engine

**motor vessel** *n* a ship powered by an engine

**motorway** /mōtər way/ *n* UK a limited-access road usually consisting of three lanes for vehicles in each direction, intended for travelling relatively fast over long distances

**motor yacht** *n* a yacht powered by an engine

**Motown** /mō town/ *tdmk* a trademark for a music company based in Detroit whose music, consisting of pop, soul, and gospel, was especially popular during the 1960s and 1970s

**motser** /mōtsər/, **motza** /mōtsəl/ *n* Aus a large sum of money, especially a gambling win (*informal*) [20C. Origin ?]

**motte** /mōt/ *n* a mound on which a castle was built [Late 19C. < French]

**motte and bailey** (*plural mottes and baileys*) *n* a fortification consisting of a fortified courtyard (**bailey**) overlooked by a wooden castle built on a mound of earth (**motte**). Such castles were built by the Normans in the 11th and 12th centuries.

**MOT test** *n* AUTOMOT same as **MOT** *n* (sense 1)

**mottle** /mōttl/ *vt* (-ties, -ting, -tied) MARK SOMETHING WITH DIFFERENT COLOURS to mark something with an irregular pattern of patches or spots of different colours ■ *n* 1. IRREGULAR PATTERN OF COLOURS an irregular pattern of patches or spots of different colours 2. PATCH OF COLOUR a patch or spot of colour that forms part of an irregular pattern [Late 17C. Probably back-formation < MOTLEY]

**mottled enamel** /mōttl'd-/ *n* tooth enamel that is mottled as a result of swallowing excessive amounts of fluoride at the age when teeth harden

**motto** /mōttō/ (*plural -toes or -tos*) *n* 1. RULE TO LIVE BY a short saying that expresses a rule to live by o 'I heartily accept the motto, "That government is best which governs least"; and I should like to see it acted up to more rapidly and systematically.' (Henry David Thoreau, *Civil Disobedience*; 1849) 2. HERALDRY SAYING ON COAT OF ARMS a short saying that forms part of a coat of arms and expresses something about the family or place whose coat of arms it is 3. LITERAT QUOTATION AT BEGINNING OF WRITING a short quotation at the beginning of a piece of writing such as a book, a chapter of a book, or a poem, related in some way

to its contents 4. MUSIC same as **motif** (sense 4) [Late 16C. < Italian, probably < assumed Vulgar Latin, 'word']

**Motu** /mō too/ (*plural same or -tus*) *n* 1. a member of a Melanesian people of Papua New Guinea who live in the central province in and around Port Moresby 2. the Austronesian language of the Motu. Native speakers: 14,000. [Late 19C. < Melanesian] — **Motu** *adj*

**motu proprio** /mō too prōpri/ (*plural motu proprios*) *n* a decree issued by a pope acting independently and on his own initiative [< Latin, 'on your own initiative']

**motza** *n* Aus MONEY, GAMBLING another spelling of **motser** (*informal*)

**moue** /moo/ *n* a look of discontent in which the lips are pressed together and forward [Mid-19C. < French]

**mouflon** /moo flon/ *n* a reddish-brown wild sheep with prominent curved horns. Native to: Sardinia, Corsica. Latin name: *Ovis musimon*. [Late 18C. Via French < Italian *mufione*]

**mouillé** /mwē ay/ *adj* describes a consonant pronounced with the tongue touching the palate [Mid-19C. < French, past participle of *mouiller* 'wet, moisten']

**mouflage** /moo lāzh/ *n* 1. the process of making a mould or cast of something such as a footprint in the course of a criminal investigation 2. a mould or cast made in the course of a criminal investigation [Early 20C. < French, 'moulding, moulded copy' < Old French *mouler* 'to mould']

**mould** /mōld/ *n* 1. CONTAINER FOR MAKING SHAPE a container that gives a shape to a molten or liquid substance poured into it to harden 2. FRAME a frame on which something is formed or built 3. OBJECT MADE IN MOULD an object formed using a mould 4. DISTINCTIVE TYPE a particular type that has a distinctive character or nature o a leader in the heroic mould 5. SET OF ASSUMPTIONS a fixed pattern or framework of assumptions, especially when regarded as restricting o negotiators who break out of the traditional diplomatic mould 6. ARCHIT same as **moulding** (sense 1) ■ *v* (moulds, moulding, moulded) 1. *vt* MAKE SOMETHING IN MOULD to shape or form something in a mould 2. *vt* GIVE SOMETHING SHAPE to shape or give form to something 3. *vt* INFLUENCE SOMEBODY OR SOMETHING to guide or influence the growth or development of somebody or something o the childhood experience that helped mould her personality 4. *vt* MAKE SOMETHING CLING shape something, especially clothing, so that it clings to and follows the contours of the part it is fitted to, or be fitted to a part in this way 5. *vt* METALL MAKE MOULD FROM SOMETHING to make a material into a mould to be used in casting metal 6. *vt* ARCHIT PUT MOULDING ON SOMETHING to decorate something with a moulding [12C. Via Old French *modle* < Latin *modulus* 'little measure' < *modus* 'measure'] — **mouldable** *adj*

**mould** /mōld/ *n* 1. FUNGUS a fungus that causes organic matter to decay 2. GROWTH OF MOULD a growth of mould on the surface of something, or the discoloration caused by the growth of mould ■ *vi* (moulds, moulding, moulded) BECOME COVERED WITH MOULD to become covered with or affected by mould [15C. < obsolete *moul* 'go mouldy' < assumed Old Norse *mugla*]

**mould** /mōld/ *n* 1. soil that is rich in humus and easily worked or crumbled 2. the ground, especially surrounding a grave (*literary*) [Old English < Indo-European 'to grind']

**mouldboard** /mōld bawrd/ *n* 1. BLADE OF PLOUGH the curved metal blade of a plough that turns over the soil 2. BLADE OF BULLDOZER OR SNOWPLOW the large curved blade on the front of a bulldozer or snowplough that pushes the soil or snow 3. CONSTR SIDE OF CONCRETE MOULD a board that forms one side or one surface of a concrete mould

**moulder** /mōldər/ (-ers, -ering, -ered) *vti* to crumble or decay because of natural processes, or make something do this [Mid-16C. < *mold* 'loose soil' < Germanic, 'grind']

**moulder** /mōldər/ *n* somebody who moulds things or makes moulds [14C. < MOULD]

**moulding** /mōlding/ *n* 1. a strip of wood or another material used to decorate or finish a surface of a wall or a piece of furniture 2. something produced using a mould

**mouldy** /mōldi/ (-ier, -iest) *adj* 1. WITH MOULD containing or covered with mould 2. STALE FROM AGE OR ROT stale and unpleasant from old age, neglect, or fungal growth 3. OLD old-fashioned or out-of-date (*informal*) 4. BORING dull, boring, or contemptible (*informal*) — **mouldiness** *n*

**moules marinières** /moöl mari nyér/ *npl* a dish of mussels cooked and served in their shells with a wine sauce [< French]

**moulin** /moölin/ *n* an almost vertical shaft in a glacier, created by meltwater and debris boring into a crack in the surface of the ice [Mid-19C. Via French, 'mill' < late Latin *molinum*]

**moult** /mōlt/ *vti* (moults, moulting, moulted) LOSE FEATHERS, HAIR, OR SKIN to shed feathers, hair, or skin periodically, especially seasonally, in order to allow replacement of what is lost with new growth ■ *n* 1. LOSS OF FEATHERS, HAIR, OR SKIN the process or time during which a bird or other animal sheds all or part of its feathers, hair, or skin 2. LOST FEATHERS, HAIR, OR SKIN the feathers, hair, or skin shed by a bird or other animal [Pre-12C. < Latin *mutare* 'to change'] — **moulter** *n*

**moulti** *n* ISLAM same as **mauli**

**mound** /moüwd/ *n* 1. SMALL HILL a small rounded hill 2. CONSTRUCTED PILE OF SOMETHING a pile of earth, stones, or other material built up for some purpose, e.g. to provide shelter, defence, or concealment 3. PILE OF OBJECTS an untidy heap or pile of objects o a mound of dirty laundry on the floor 4. LARGE AMOUNT a large amount of something o a mound of mashed potatoes ■ *vt* (mounds, mounding, mounded) MAKE SOMETHING INTO MOUND to form something into a mound [Early 16C. Origin ?]

**moundbird** /mōüwd burd/ *n* BIRDS same as **megapode** [Mid-19C. < its custom of depositing its eggs in a mound]

**Mound Builder** *n* a member of an early Native North American people who built burial mounds and earthwork fortifications in what is now the Midwest and Southeast of the United States

**mound-builder** *n* BIRDS same as **megapode** [See MOUND-BIRD]

**mount** /moüwt/ *v* (mounts, mounting, mounted) 1. *vi* CLIMB something to climb up something such as stairs or a hill 2. *vti* GET ONTO SOMETHING FOR RIDE to get onto an animal or a form of transport such as a bicycle 3. *vt* PUT SOMEBODY ON FORM OF TRANSPORT to put somebody onto an animal or a form of transport such as a bicycle 4. *vt* GET ONTO SOMETHING HIGHER to get up onto a platform or other raised position 5. *vi* GO UP INTO AIR to move upwards into the air 6. *vt* BEGIN COURSE OF ACTION to put into operation a course of action such as a campaign, rescue, or attack 7. *vt* ORGANIZE ARTS PRODUCTION to organize something such as an exhibition or a production of a play 8. *vi* INCREASE to become greater, stronger, or more intense o Tension was mounting. 9. *vt* SECURE SOMETHING TO SOMETHING ELSE to fix something securely to something else, e.g. a picture into a frame, a specimen onto a slide, a stamp into an album, or an exhibit onto a stand or support 10. *vt* PUT SOMETHING SOMEWHERE FOR USE to put something onto a support or into a position so that it is ready for use o mount a camera 11. *vt* CLIMB ONTO ANIMAL to copulate to climb onto a female animal in order to copulate (*technical*; refers to male animals) ■ *n* 1. SOMETHING FOR FIXING SOMETHING IN PLACE something on which or with which something else can be mounted, e.g. a stand, support, frame, or backing 2. ANIMAL FOR RIDING an animal used for riding, e.g. a horse 3. STAMPS SOMETHING FOR MOUNTING STAMP an envelope or card on which to mount a stamp [13C. < Old French *monter* 'go up' < Latin *mont-* 'mountain'] — **mountable** *adj* — **mounter** *n*

**mount** /moüwt/ *n* GEOG same as **mountain** (sense 1) (*archaic or literary*; often used in placenames) [Pre-12C. Via French < Latin *mont-* 'mountain']

**mountain** /mōüwntin/ *n* 1. HIGH POINT OF LAND a high and often rocky area of a land mass with steep or sloping sides o a plateau surrounded by mountains. See table on next page 2. LARGE PILE a large pile or heap of something o a mountain of books 3. LARGE AMOUNT a large amount of something (*informal*; often used in the plural) o a mountain of work 4. SURPLUS a large surplus of a particular commodity (*informal*; usually used in combination) o a butter mountain [13C. < Old French *montagne* < Latin *mont-*, *mons*] o make a mountain out of a molehill to treat something that is not important as if it were

**mountain ash** *n* TREES same as **rowan** (sense 1)

**mountain avens** *n* a small trailing plant of the rose family. Flowers: white. Native to: temperate mountainous and Arctic areas. Latin name: *Dryas octopetala*.

**mountain beaver** *n* a large thick-set rodent that lives

**pity** /pɪtɪ/ *n* 1. **FEELING OF SYMPATHY** a feeling of sadness because of another person's trouble or suffering, or the capacity to feel this 2. **REGRETTABLE THING** a sad or regrettable thing *It's a pity you couldn't make it.* 3. **MERCY** a willingness to help or to forgive somebody ■ **vt** (-ies, -ying, -ied) **FEEL PITY FOR SOMEBODY** to feel pity for somebody ■ **interj** **EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY OR REGRET** used to express sympathy or regret about something (*informal*) [13C. Via Old French *pitē* < Latin *pietas* 'dutifulness, piety, compassion' (see *PIETY*)] — **pitying** *adj* — **pitiingly** *adv* *have or take pity on somebody* 1. to feel pity for somebody 2. to show mercy to somebody *the more's the pity* used to express regret, disappointment, or annoyance that something is the case (*informal*)

**pityful** *adj* incorrect spelling of *pitiful*

**pityriasis** /pɪtɪ ˈrɪ æssɪs/ *n* a skin disease affecting humans and animals in which the skin comes off in dry flakes [Late 17C. Via modern Latin < Greek *piturias* < *pituron* 'corn husks']

**più** /pyoʊ/ *adv* more or increasingly (*used as a musical direction*) [Early 18C. Via Italian < Latin *plus*]

**piupiu** /peə oo peə oo/ *n* a skirt worn by Maori men and women for traditional ceremonies and dances, made from the leaves of the New Zealand flax [Late 19C. < Maori]

**Piura** /peə ˈoʊrə/ *n* city in northwestern Peru on the Piura River. The nearby community of San Miguel de Piura, the oldest Spanish settlement in Peru, was founded in 1532 by the conquistador Francisco Pizarro. Population: 324,600 (1990).

**Pius IX** /pi ˈæss/ (1792–1878) pope. (1846–78). His pontificate (1846–78) was marked by the loss of the Papal States, the declaration of papal infallibility, and condemnation of all forms of liberalism. Born Mastai-Ferretti, Giovanni Maria

**Pius XII** (1876–1958) pope (1939–58). He condemned modernism and Communism. He sought to prevent World War II, although his role in the war is the subject of controversy. Born Pacelli, Eugenio

**Pius V**, St (1504–72) pope (1566–72). During his pontificate, he aided French Roman Catholics in their persecution of the Huguenots, excommunicated Elizabeth I of England, and used the Inquisition to punish heretics. Born Antonio Michele Ghislieri

**Pius X**, St (1835–1914) pope (1903–14). During his pontificate he opposed modernism in the Roman Catholic Church, initiated changes to canon law, and introduced a new breviary. Born Sarto, Giuseppe Melchiorre

**Piute** *n, adj* LANG another spelling of *Paiute*

**pivot** /pɪvəʊt/ *n* 1. **MECH ENG POINT ON WHICH SOMETHING TURNS** a pin, shaft, or point on which something turns 2. **CRUCIAL PERSON OR THING** somebody or something that is essential to the success or effectiveness of an activity or event 3. **TURNING MOVEMENT** a turning movement on a pivot or while standing in place 4. **MIL CENTRE POINT OF WHEELING MOVEMENT** a person, group of people, or point that acts as the centre around which a military formation carries out a wheeling movement 5. **BASKETBALL OFFENSIVE POSITION OR PLAYER** in basketball, an offensive position in which a player faces away from the opposing basket, relays passes, and screens other team members, or a player in this position ■ **v** (-ots, -oting, -oted) 1. **vt** **TURN ON PIVOT** to turn on a pivot, or make something do this 2. **vti** **WHEEL OR SWING ROUND** to wheel or swing round, or make something do this 3. **vi** **DEPEND ON SOMETHING** to be dependent on somebody or something, usually a single person, thing, or factor 4. **vt** **PROVIDE SOMETHING WITH PIVOT** to provide something with a pivot on which it can turn [15C. < French]

**pivotal** /pɪvəʊtəl/ *adj* 1. **vitally important**, especially in determining the outcome, progress, or success of something 2. **relating to or functioning as a pivot**

**pivotman** /pɪvəʊt mən/ *n* 1. **somebody on whom the success of an organization depends** 2. **BASKETBALL** same as *pivot* *n* (sense 5)

**pix<sup>1</sup>** *n* CINEMA, PHOTOGRAPHY, ARTS plural of *pic* (*informal*)

**pix<sup>2</sup>** *n* CHR another spelling of *pyx*

**pixel** /pɪksəl/ *n* a tiny dot of light that is the basic unit from which images on computer or television screens are made [Mid-20C. < *PIX*<sup>1</sup> + *ELEMENT*]

**pixelated** /pɪksɪ laɪtɪd/, **pixelated** *adj* describes an image on a computer or television screen that is made up of pixels, especially one that is unclear or distorted [Mid-20C. < *PIXEL*, after *PIXILATED*]

**pixie** /pɪksɪ/, **pixy** (*plural -ies*) *n* a fairy or elf often depicted as having pointed ears, wearing a long pointed hat, and being cheerful and rather mischievous [Mid-17C. Origin ?]

**pixilated** /pɪksɪ laɪtɪd/ *adj* 1. **feeling bewildered** 2. **intoxicated by alcohol** (*informal*) [Mid-19C. < *PIXIE*, after words such as *elated*, *titillated*] — **pixilation** /pɪksɪ laɪʃən/ *n*

**pixy** *n* another spelling of *pixie*

**Pizarro** /pi zɑːrəʊ/, **Francisco** (1476?–1541) Spanish conquistador. He conquered the Inca Empire (1532), founded the city of Lima (1535), and was governor of Peru (1532–41).

**pizzazz** *n* another spelling of *pizzazz* (*informal*)

**pizza** /peɪtsə/ *n* a flat round piece of bread dough baked with a variety of toppings, often including tomato sauce and cheese [Late 19C. < Italian, 'pie']

**pizzazz** /pə zɑːz/, **pizzaz**, **pizzaz**, **pzzaz** *n* an attractive and exciting vitality, especially when combined with style and glamour (*informal*) [Mid-20C. Origin ?]

**pizzeria** /peɪtsə rɪe ə/ *n* a restaurant that specializes in making and serving pizzas [Mid-20C. < Italian < *pizza* 'pizza, pie']

**pizzicato** /pɪtsɪ kɑːtəʊ/ *adv* by using the fingers to pluck the strings of an instrument that is normally played with a bow, especially a violin (*used as a musical direction*) ■ *n* (*plural -tos or -ti /-ti/*) a piece of music, or a section of a piece, played pizzicato [Mid-19C. < Italian, past participle of *pizzicare* 'pluck' < *pizzare* 'to prick, sting' < *pizza* 'point'] — **pizzicato** *adj*

**pizzle** /pɪzəl/ *n* **AUS** the penis of an animal, especially a bull (*sometimes considered offensive*) [Late 15C. < Low German *pēsel* 'little penis' < Middle Low German *pēse* 'penis']

**pk** *abbr* 1. **pack** 2. **ONLINE Pakistan** (*used in Internet addresses*) See table at *domain name* 3. **park** 4. **peak** 5. **MEASURE** *peck*

**PK** *abbr* **PARAPSYCHOL** psychokinesis

**PKI** *abbr* **E-COMMERCE** public key infrastructure

**pkt** *abbr* **packet**

**PKU** *abbr* **MED** phenylketonuria

**Pky, pky, Pkwy** *abbr* **parkway**

**pl** *abbr* 1. **GRAM** plural 2. **Poland** (*used in Internet addresses*) See table at *domain name*

**PL** *abbr* 1. **GRAM** plural 2. **LAW** public law

**Pl**, *abbr* **Place** (*used in addresses*)

**PL/1** *abbr* a high level computer programming language specially designed for both business and scientific applications. Full form **programming language 1**

**PLA** *abbr* **Port of London Authority**

**Plaatje** /plɑːtʃi/, **Sol T.** (1876–1932) South African writer, linguist, and politician. He led a campaign against the Natives' Land Act of 1913. Among his works are *Native Life in South Africa* (1916) and *The Boer War Diary of Sol T. Plaatje, an African at Mafeking* (1973) (published posthumously). He was the First Secretary General of the South African National Native Congress, forerunner of the ANC. Full name **Plaatje, Solomon Tshetshiso**

**placable** /pləkeɪbəl/ *adj* easily placated (*formal*) [14C. Directly or via French < Latin *placabilis* < *placare* 'make calm'] — **placability** /pləkeɪ bɪləti/ *n* — **placably** *adv*

**placard** /plə kɑːrd/ *n* 1. **NOTICE DISPLAYED IN PUBLIC** a large piece of card or board with a notice on it, displayed or carried in public 2. **SMALL CARD OR METAL PLAQUE** a small card or metal plaque with a name on it, e.g. a doorplate ■ **vt** (-ards, -arding, -arded) 1. **PUT PLACARDS ON SOMETHING** to put placards on or in something 2. **PUBLICIZE SOMETHING WITH PLACARDS** to advertise or announce something using placards [15C. < French < Old French *placquier* 'flatten, plaster' < Middle Dutch *placken* 'flatten, patch']

**placate** /plə kɑːt/ (-cates, -cating, -cated) *vt* to make somebody less angry, upset, or hostile, usually by doing or saying things to please him or her [Late 17C.

< Latin *placat-*, past participle of *placare* 'make calm'] — **placation** *n* — **placatory** *adj*

**place** /pleɪs/ *n* 1. **AREA OR PORTION OF SPACE** an area, position, or portion of space that somebody or something can occupy *This is a good place to plant the sapling.* 2. **LOCALITY** a geographical locality, e.g. a town, country, or region *People come here to work from lots of different places.* 3. **SQUARE OR STREET** a public square or short street with residences on it 4. **DWELLING** a house, flat, or other living accommodation *a place of our own* 5. **LOCATION WITH PARTICULAR USE** a building or location with a particular purpose *the firm's place of business* *their regular place of worship* 6. **POINT IN SOMETHING** a point or position in something such as a book, film, or story *I lost my place when you interrupted me.* 7. **PROPER POSITION** the usual or proper position or location for somebody or something *A place for everything, and everything in its place.* 8. **OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY** an opportunity to study at a school or university *hoping for a place at Oxford* 9. **STATUS** somebody's social position or rank in an organization *know your place* 10. **RESPONSIBILITY** somebody's responsibility or right, especially as it relates to the person's role or status *It's not your place to tell me what to do.* 11. **JOB** a job or position *was offered a place on the board* 12. **SOMEWHERE TO SIT** somewhere for somebody to sit, e.g. at a table or in a theatre *I'll keep a place for you next to me.* 13. **POSITION IN SERIES** the position of somebody or something in a sequence or series 14. **HORSE RACING WINNING, SECOND, OR THIRD POSITION** the winning, second, or third position in a race, especially a horse race 15. **N AM HORSE RACING SECOND POSITION** the second position in a race, especially a horse race 16. **MATHS POSITION OF DIGIT IN NUMBER** the relative position of a digit in a number ■ **vt** (*places, placing, placed*) 1. **PUT SOMETHING OR SOMEBODY SOMEWHERE** to put something or somebody in a particular location or position *placed the box on the table* 2. **PUT SOMEBODY IN PARTICULAR STATE** to cause somebody or something to be in a particular state or condition *Your actions placed all of us in danger.* 3. **SEE SOMEBODY IN PARTICULAR WAY** to see or treat somebody or something as having a particular value or character *He placed his family above everything else in his life.* 4. **REMEMBER SOMEBODY OR SOMETHING** to recognize or remember somebody or something *I can't place him.* 5. **ASSIGN SOMEBODY** to assign somebody to a job, position, home, or the care of somebody else *I'll see if I can place you with the sales team.* 6. **AIM SOMETHING CAREFULLY** to aim or calculate something carefully in order to achieve the desired result *Her observations were timely and well placed.* *placed his punches well* 7. **ARRANGE FOR SOMETHING** to arrange for something to be dealt with or take place *placed an order for a new car* 8. **HORSE RACING WIN OR BE SECOND OR THIRD** to finish or cause somebody or something to finish in the winning, second, or third position in a contest, especially a horse race (*usually passive*) *This horse has been placed in its last three outings.* [Fr. 12C. Via French < Latin *platea* 'broad way' < Greek *plateia hodos*] *all over the place* (*informal*) 1. **everywhere** 2. in a state of disorder or confusion *a place in the sun* a position of success, happiness, or prosperity *give place (to)* 1. to be succeeded or superseded by somebody or something 2. to make room for somebody or something *go places* to become successful (*informal*) *in place* 1. in position or ready for use 2. in the position or location in which somebody or something belongs or ought to be *in place of* instead of or as a replacement for somebody or something *out of place* 1. not in the position or location in which somebody or something should be 2. inappropriate or incongruous *put somebody in his or her place* to humble somebody who is behaving in an arrogant, presumptuous, or insolent way (*informal*) *take place* to happen *take the place of* to be a substitute for or replace somebody or something

**SPELLCHECK** Do not confuse the spelling of *place* and *plaise* (the fish), which sound similar.

**placebo** /plə seɪbə/ (*plural -bos or -boes*) *n* 1. **PRESCRIPTION WITHOUT PHYSICAL EFFECT** something prescribed for a patient that contains no medicine, but is given for the positive psychological effect it may have because the patient believes that he or she is receiving treatment 2. **PHARM INACTIVE SUBSTANCE**