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he had \$1,000 of borrowed cash in hand. **3** under one's control: the police had the situation well in hand. **■** (of land) farmed directly by its owner and not let to tenants. **□** in safe hands protected by someone trustworthy from harm or damage: the future of the cathedral is in safe hands. **□** keep one's hand in become (or remain) practiced in something. **□** make (or lose or spend) money hand over fist informal make (or lose or spend) money very rapidly. **□** off someone's hands not having to be dealt with or looked after by the person specified: they just want the problem off their hands. **□** on every hand all around: new technologies were springing up on every hand. **□** on hand present, esp. for a specified purpose: her trainer was on hand to give advice. **■** readily available. **■** needing to be dealt with: they had many urgent and pressing matters on hand. **□** on someone's hands used to indicate that someone is responsible for dealing with someone or something: he has a difficult job on his hands. **■** used to indicate that someone is to blame for something: he has my son's blood on his hands. **■** at someone's disposal: since I retired I've had more time on my hands. **□** on the one (or the other) hand used to present factors that are opposed or that support opposing opinions: a conflict between their rationally held views on the one hand and their emotions and desires on the other. **□** out of hand **1** not under control. **2** without taking time to think: they rejected negotiations out of hand. **□** the right hand doesn't know what the left hand is doing used to convey that there is a state of confusion within a group or organization. **□** set (or put) one's hand to start work on. **□** stay someone's hand restrain someone from acting. **□** take a hand become influential in determining something; intervene: fate was about to take a hand in the outcome of the championship. **□** to hand within easy reach: have a pen and paper to hand. **□** turn one's hand to undertake (an activity different from one's usual occupation): a music teacher who turned his hand to writing books. **□** wait on someone hand and foot attend to all someone's needs or requests, esp. when this is regarded as unreasonable. **□** with one hand (tied) behind one's back with serious limitations or restrictions: at the moment, the police are tackling record crime rates with one hand tied behind their back. **■** used to indicate that one could do something without any difficulty: I could do her job with one hand tied behind my back.

Handan /'hān'dān/ industrial city in southern Hebei province in eastern China, a communications and transportation hub on the Fuyang River north of Anyang; pop. 1,110,000.

hand-bag /'hān(d),bæg/ **n.** a woman's purse.

hand-ball /'hān(d),bɔ:l/ **n.** **1** a game similar to squash in which a ball is hit with the hand in a walled court. **■** (also team handball) a team game similar to soccer in which the ball is thrown or hit with the hands rather than kicked. **■** the ball used in these games. **2** Soccer touching of the ball with the hand or arm, constituting a foul.

hand-bar-row /'hān(d),bærə/ **n.** a rectangular frame with poles at each end for being carried by two people.

hand-bell /'hān(d),bel/ **n.** a small bell with a handle or strap, esp. one of a set tuned to a range of notes and played by a group of people.

hand-bill /'hān(d),bil/ **n.** a small printed advertisement or other notice distributed by hand.

hand-blown /'hān(d),blɔ:n/ **adj.** (of glassware) made by a glassblower with a hand-held blowpipe.

hand-book /'hān(d),bʊk/ **n.** a book giving information such as facts on a particular subject or instructions for operating a machine.

hand-brake /'hān(d),bræk/ **n.** the emergency or parking brake on a motor vehicle. **■** a brake operated by hand, as on a bicycle.

hand-car /'hān(d),kɑ:r/ **n.** a light railroad vehicle propelled by pushing cranks or levers and used by workers for inspecting the track.

hand-cart /'hān(d),kɑ:t/ **n.** a small cart pushed or drawn by hand.

hand-clap /'hān(d),klap/ **n.** a clap of the hands: the switch is sensitive enough to be activated by a handclap.

hand-clasp /'hān(d),klasp/ **n.** the act of clasping someone else's hand; handshake.

hand-craft /'hān(d),kra:ft/ **v.** [trans.] [usu. as adj.] (handcrafted) make skillfully by hand: a handcrafted rocking chair.

■ n. another term for HANDICRAFT.

hand crank **n.** a crank that is turned by hand.

■ v. (hand-crank) [trans.] operate (a device) by turning a crank by hand.

hand cream **n.** a moisturizing cream for the hands.

hand-cuff /'hān(d),kɛf/ **n.** (handcuffs) a pair of lockable linked metal rings for securing a prisoner's wrists.

■ v. [trans.] put handcuffs on (someone): he was led into court handcuffed to a policeman. **■** figurative restrain; hamper: he will not allow his training to handcuff his creativity.

-handed **comb. form** **1** for or involving a specified number of hands: a two-handed back-hand. **2** chiefly using or designed for use by the hand specified: a right-handed batter | a left-handed guitar. **3** relating to capability, means, or result, esp. of failure: empty-handed | heavy-handed.

-handedly **comb. form** in adverbs corresponding to adjectives ending in -handed (such as heavy-handedly corresponding to heavy-handed).

-handedness **comb. form** in nouns corresponding to adjectives ending in -handed (such as left-handedness corresponding to left-handed).

Handel /'hændl/, George Frederick (1685–1759), German composer and organist, resident in Britain from 1712; born Georg Friedrich Händel. He is chiefly remembered for his oratorio Messiah (1742), his Water Music suite (c.1717), and his Music for the Royal Fireworks (1749).

hand-ful /'hān(d),fʊl/ **n.** (pl. -fuls) **1** a quantity that fills the hand: a small handful of fresh coriander. **■** a small number or amount: one of a handful of attorneys in the Southwest who specialize in water-rights laws. **2** informal a person who is very difficult to deal with or control: the kids could be such a handful.

hand gallop **n.** [in sing.] an easily controlled gallop.

hand grenade **n.** a hand-thrown grenade.

hand-grip /'hān(d),grɪp/ **n.** **1** a handle for holding onto something. **2** a grasp with the hand, esp. considered in terms of its strength, as in a handshake.

hand-gun /'hān(d),gʌn/ **n.** a gun designed for use by one hand, chiefly either a pistol or a revolver.

hand-held (also handheld) **adj.** designed to be held in the hand: a hand-held computer.

hand-hold /'hān(d),hɒld/ **n.** something for a hand to grip: the rock is steep and there are few handholds. **■** a secure grip with a hand or the hands: he was able to jump to catch a handhold.

hand-holding /'hān(d),hɒldɪŋ/ **n.** the provision of careful attention, support, or reassurance to another. **■** the giving of simple, detailed, step-by-step instructions.

hand-i-cap /'hāndē,kap/ **n.** a condition that markedly restricts a person's ability to function physically, mentally, or socially: he was born with a significant visual handicap. **■** a circumstance that makes progress or success difficult: a criminal conviction is a handicap and a label that may stick forever. **■** a disadvantage imposed on a superior competitor in sports such as golf, horse racing, and competitive sailing in order to make the chances more equal. **■** a race or contest in which such a disadvantage is imposed: [in names] the trophy for the \$75,000 Ak-Sar-Ben Handicap. **■** the extra weight to be carried in a race by a racehorse on the basis of its previous performance to make its chances of winning the same as those of the other horses. **■** the number of strokes by which a golfer normally exceeds par for a course (used as a method of enabling players of unequal ability to compete with each other): [in combination] his game struggles along in the 20-handicap range.

■ v. (-capped, -capping) [trans.] act as an impediment to: lack of funding has handicapped the development of research. **■** place (someone) at a disadvantage: without a good set of notes you will handicap yourself when it comes to exams. **■** mid 17th cent.: from the phrase hand in cap; originally a pastime in which one person claimed an article belonging to another and offered something in exchange, any difference in value being decided by an umpire. All three deposited forfeit money in a cap; the two opponents showed their agreement or disagreement with the valuation by bringing out their hands either full or empty. If both were the same, the umpire took the forfeit money; if not, it went to the person who accepted the valuation. The term handicap race was applied (late 18th cent.) to a horse race in which an umpire decided the weight to be carried by each horse, the owners showing acceptance or dissent in a similar way: hence in the late 19th cent. handicap came to mean the extra weight given to the superior horse.

hand-i-capped /'hāndē,kapt/ **adj.** having a condition that markedly restricts one's ability to function physically, mentally, or socially: a special school

for handicapped children | [as plural n.] (the handicapped) a home for the handicapped.

USAGE Handicapped in the sense referring to a person's mental or physical disabilities is first recorded in the early 20th century. For a brief period in the second half of the 20th century, it looked as if handicapped would be replaced by disabled, but both words are now acceptable and interchangeable in standard American English, and neither word has been overtaken by newer coinages such as differently abled or physically challenged. See also usage at LEARNING DISABILITY.

hand-i-cap-per /'hāndē,kapər/ **n.** a person appointed to assign or assess a competitor's handicap, esp. in golf or horse racing. **■** [usu. in combination] a person or horse having a specified handicap: a three-handicapper.

hand-i-craft /'hāndē,kra:ft/ **n.** (often handicrafts) a particular skill of making decorative objects by hand: the traditional handicrafts of this region | teachers of drawing, design, and handicraft | [as adj.] handicraft workshops. **■** an object made using a skill of this kind: pottery and handicrafts decorate the rooms and hallways. **■** Middle English: alteration of HANDCRAFT, on the pattern of handiwork.

hand-i-work /'hāndē,wɜ:k/ **n.** **1** (one's handiwork) something that one has made or done: the dressmakers stood back to survey their handiwork. **2** making things by hand, considered as a subject of instruction: they taught young women reading, writing, and handiwork. **■** Old English handgework, from HAND + geweorc 'something made,' interpreted in the 16th cent. as handy + work.

hand job (also hand-job) **n.** vulgar slang an act of male masturbation, esp. as performed on a man by someone else.

hand-ker-chief /'hānkərtʃif; -tʃeɪf/ **n.** a square of cotton or other finely woven material, typically carried one's pocket and intended for blowing or wiping one's nose. **■** mid 16th cent.: from HAND + KERCHIEF.

hand-le /'hāndl/ **v.** [trans.] **1** feel or manipulate with the hands: heavy paving slabs can be difficult to handle | people who handle food. **■** drive or control (a vehicle): where did you learn to handle a boat? **■** [intrans.] (of a vehicle) respond in a specified manner when being driven or controlled: a roadworthy bicycle that also handles well off the pavement. **2** manage (a situation or problem): a lawyer's ability to handle a case properly. **■** informal deal with (someone or something): I don't think I could handle it if they turned me down. **■** have the resources to cope with: more orders than I can handle. **■** control or manage commercially: the advertising company that is handling the account. **■** [with adverbial] (handle oneself) conduct oneself in a specified manner: he handled himself with considerable aplomb. **■** (handle oneself) informal defend oneself physically or verbally: I can handle myself in a fight. **3** process: the airport expects to handle almost 250,000 passengers this weekend.

■ n. **1** the part by which a thing is held, carried, or controlled: the pan features helpful lifting handles. **■** (a handle on) figurative a means of understanding, controlling, or approaching a person or situation: it'll give people some kind of handle on these issues | get a handle on your life. **2** informal the name of a person or place: that's some handle for a baby. **3** [in sing.] informal the total amount of money bet over a particular time (typically at a casino) or at a particular sporting event: the monthly handle of a couple of casinos in Las Vegas. **■** Old English handle (noun), handlian (verb), from HAND. **—**hand-le-a-bil-ity /'hānd-ə'biliti/ **n.** **—**hand-le-a-ble **adj.** **—**hand-led **adj.** [in combination] a rope-handled canvas bag. **—**hand-le-less **adj.**

hand-le-bar /'hāndl,bær/ **n.** (usu. handlebars) the steering bar of a bicycle, motorcycle, scooter, or other vehicle, with a handgrip at each end.

hand-le-bar mus-tache **n.** a wide, thick mustache with the ends curving slightly upward.

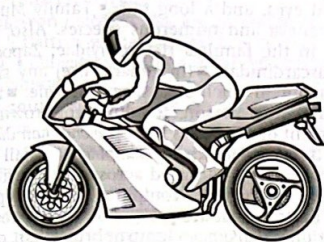
hand-ler /'hāndlər/ **n.** **1** [usu. with adj.] a person who handles or deals with certain articles or



handlebar mustache

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

motor-cycle /'mōtə,sīkəl/ *n.* a two-wheeled vehicle that is powered by a motor and has no pedals.
—motor-cycling /-,sīk(ə)lɪŋ/ *n.* **—motorcyclist** /-,sīk(ə)lɪst/ *n.*



motorcycle

motor drive *n.* a mechanical system that includes an electric motor and drives a machine. ■ a battery-driven motor in a camera used to wind the film rapidly between exposures.

motor generator *n.* a device consisting of a mechanically coupled electric motor and generator that may be used to control the voltage, frequency, or phase of an electrical supply.

motor home *n.* a motor vehicle equipped like a trailer for living in, with kitchen facilities, beds, etc.

motor inn (also **motor hotel** or **motor lodge**) *n.* a motel.

motorist /'mōtərist/ *n.* the driver of an automobile.

motorize /'mōtə,rīz/ *v.* [trans.] [usu. as *adj.*] (motorized) equip (a vehicle or device) with a motor to operate or propel it: a motorized wheelchair. ■ equip (troops) with motor transportation: three motorized divisions. **—motorization** /-,mōtə'rīzəshən/ *n.*

motor launch *n.* see **LAUNCH** 2.

motor man /'mōtə,mən/ *n.* (pl. **-men**) the driver of an electric vehicle, esp. a streetcar or subway train.

motor-mouth /'mōtə,məʊθ/ (also **motor-mouth**) *n.* informal a person who talks quickly and incessantly. **—motor-mouthed** /-,mōtə'maʊθd/; **—moutht** (or **motor-mouthed**) *adj.*

motor nerve *n.* a nerve carrying impulses from the brain or spinal cord to a muscle or gland.

motor neuron *n.* a nerve cell forming part of a pathway along which impulses pass from the brain or spinal cord to a muscle or gland.

motor-sailer /'mōtə,sāler/ *n.* a boat equipped with both sails and an engine.

motor scooter *n.* see **SCOOTER**.

motor vehicle *n.* a road vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine; an automobile.

motor voter law *n.* another name for the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, designed to reverse declining voter registration by allowing voters to register at motor vehicle departments.

motorway /'mōtə,wā/ *n.* *Brit.* an expressway. ■ informal a wide, fast, easy ski run.

Motown /'mō,təʊn/ *n.* 1 (also **trademark Tamla Motown**) music released on or reminiscent of the U.S. record label Tamla Motown. The first black-owned record company in the U.S., Tamla Motown was founded in Detroit in 1959 by Berry Gordy, and was important in popularizing soul music, producing artists such as the Supremes, Stevie Wonder, and Marvin Gaye. 2 informal name for **DETROIT**. ▶mid 20th cent.: shortening of *Motor Town*, by association with the car manufacturing industry of Detroit.

Mott /māt/, Lucretia (Coffin) (1793–1880), U.S. social reformer. A progressive Quaker minister, she was a highly motivated activist in the cause of abolition, women's rights, and freedom of religion. She wrote *Discourse on Women* (1850) and helped to form the Free Religious Association 1867.

motte /māt/ *n.* 1 (also **mott**) a stand of trees, esp. in the southwestern U.S.; a grove. 2 historical a mound forming the site of a castle or camp. ▶late 19th cent.: from French, 'mound,' from Old French *mote* (see **MOAT**).

mot-tle /'māt/ *v.* [trans.] (usu. **be mottled**) mark with spots or smears of color: the cow's coat was light red mottled with white [as *adj.*] (**mottled**) a bird with mottled brown plumage.

n. an irregular arrangement of spots or patches of color: the ship was a mottle of khaki and black. ■ (also **mottling**) a spot or patch forming part of such an arrangement: the mottles on a trout | white marble with mottlings of black and gray. ▶late 18th cent.: probably a back-formation from **MOTLEY**.

or phrase chosen as encapsulating the beliefs or ideals guiding an individual, family, or institution: the school motto, "Serve and obey" | he soon adopted the motto "work hard and play hard." ■ *Music* a phrase that recurs throughout a musical work and has some symbolic significance. ▶late 16th cent.: from Italian, 'word.'

mo-tu pro-pri-o /'mōtōō 'prōprē,ō/ *n.* (pl. **mo-tu pro-pri-os**) an edict issued by the pope personally to the Roman Catholic Church or to a part of it. ▶Latin, literally 'of one's own volition.'

moue /mōō/ *n.* a pouting expression used to convey annoyance or distaste. ▶mid 19th cent.: French, earlier having the sense 'lip.'

mouf-lon /'mōōf,lōn/ (also **mouf-lon**) *n.* a small wild sheep with chestnut-brown wool, found in mountainous country from Iran to Asia Minor. It is the ancestor of the domestic sheep. • *Ovis orientalis*, family Bovidae. ▶late 18th cent.: from French, from Italian *muflone*.

mouil-lé /'mōō'yā/ *adj.* *Phonetics* (of a consonant) palatalized. ▶French, 'wetted.'

mou-jik /mōō'zhēk/; **-'zhik** *n.* variant spelling of **MUZHUK**.

mould /mōld/ *n.* & *v.* British spelling of **MOLD** 1, **MOLD** 2, and **MOLD** 3.

moulder /'mōldə/ *v.* & *n.* British spelling of **MOLDER**.

mould-ing /'mōldɪŋ/ *n.* British spelling of **MOLDING**.

mould-y /'mōldē/ *adj.* British spelling of **MOLDY**.

mou-lin /'mōō'lan/ *n.* a vertical or nearly vertical shaft in a glacier, formed by surface water percolating through a crack in the ice. ▶mid 19th cent.: French, literally 'mill.'

Mou-lin Rouge /'mōō'lan 'rōōzh/ a cabaret in Montmartre, Paris, a favorite resort of poets and artists around the end of the 19th century. Toulouse-Lautrec immortalized its dancers in his posters. ▶French, literally 'red windmill.'

Moul-mein /'mōō'mān/; **-'mōl'mīn** a port in southeastern Myanmar (Burma); pop. 220,000.

moult /mōlt/ *v.* & *n.* British spelling of **MOLT**.

moul-vi /'mōōlvē/; **-'mōl-/** (also **maulvi**, **molvi**) *n.* (pl. **-vis**) a Muslim doctor of law; an imam. ▶from Urdu *maulvi*, from Arabic *mawlawi* 'judicial' (adjective used as a noun), from *mawla* 'mullah.'

mound 1 /maʊnd/ *n.* a rounded mass projecting above a surface. ■ a raised mass of earth, stones, or other compacted material, sometimes created artificially for purposes of defense or burial. ■ a small hill. ■ (a mound of/mounds of) a large pile or quantity of something: burying potential problems under mounds of cash. ■ *Baseball* (in full **pitcher's mound**) the elevated area from which the pitcher delivers the ball.

▶*v.* [trans.] heap up into a rounded pile: mound the pie filling slightly in the center. ■ *archaic* enclose, bound, or fortify with an embankment: hills that mound the sea. ▶early 16th cent. (as a verb in the sense 'enclose with a fence or hedge'): of obscure origin. An early sense of the noun was 'boundary hedge or fence.'

▶**PHRASE** □ **take the mound** *Baseball* (of a pitcher) have a turn at pitching: Morris will take the mound Tuesday.

mound 2 *n.* *archaic* a ball representing the earth, used as part of royal regalia, e.g., on top of a crown, typically of gold and surmounted by a cross. ▶Middle English (denoting the world): from Old French *monde*, from Latin *mundus* 'world.'

mound builder *n.* another term for **MEGAPODE**.

Moun-dou /'mōōndōō/ a commercial city in southern Chad; pop. 281,000.

mounds-man /'maʊnd(d)zmən/ *n.* (pl. **-men**) *Baseball* a pitcher.

mount 1 /maʊnt/ *v.* [trans.] 1 climb up (stairs, a hill, or other rising surface): he mounted the steps to the front door. ■ climb or move up on to (a raised surface): the master of ceremonies mounted the platform.

■ get up on (an animal or bicycle) in order to ride it. ■ (often **be mounted**) set (someone) on horseback; provide with a horse: she was mounted on a white horse. ■ (of a male mammal or bird) get on (a female) for the purpose of copulation. ■ [intrans.] (of the blood or its color) rise into the cheeks: feeling the blush mount in her cheeks, she looked down quickly. 2 organize and initiate (a campaign or other significant course of action): the company had successfully mounted takeover bids. ■ establish; set up: security forces mounted checkpoints at every key road. ■ produce (a play, exhibition, or other artistic event); present for public view or display. 3 [intrans.] grow larger or more numerous: the costs mount up when you buy a home. ■ (of

a feeling) become stronger or more intense: his anxiety mounted as messages were left unanswered. 4 [trans.] place or fix (an object) on an elevated support: fluorescent lights are mounted on the ceiling. ■ fix (an object) in position: the engine is mounted behind the rear seats. ■ [trans.] place (a gun) on a fixed mounting. ■ [trans.] set in or attach to a backing or setting: the photographs will be mounted and framed. ■ [trans.] fix (an object for viewing) on a microscope slide. ■ [trans.] *Computing* make (a disk or disk drive) available for use.

▶*n.* 1 a backing or setting on which a photograph, gem, or work of art is set for display. ■ a glass microscope slide for securing a specimen to be viewed. ■ *Philately* a clear plastic or paper sleeve used to display a postage stamp. 2 a support for a gun, camera, or similar piece of equipment. 3 a horse being ridden or that is available for riding: he hung on to his mount's bridle. ■ an opportunity to ride a horse, esp. as a jockey: the jockey's injuries forced him to give up the coveted mount on Cool Ground. ▶Middle English: from Old French *muntier*, based on Latin *mons*, *mountain*. **—mountable** *adj.* **—mountier** *n.*

▶**PHRASE** □ **mount guard** keep watch, esp. for protection or to prevent escape.

mount 2 *n.* a mountain or hill (archaic except in place names): Mount Everest. ■ any of several fleshy prominences on the palm of the hand regarded in palmistry as signifying the degree of influence of a particular planet: mount of Mars. ▶Old English *mnt*, from Latin *mons*, *mountain*, reinforced in Middle English by Old French *mont*.

mountain /'maʊntn/ *n.* a large natural elevation of the earth's surface rising abruptly from the surrounding level; a large steep hill: the village is backed by awe-inspiring mountains | we set off down the mountain [as *adj.*] the ice and snow of a mountain peak. ■ (mountains) a region where there are many such features, characterized by remoteness and inaccessibility: they sought refuge in the mountains [as *adj.*] (mountain) his attempt to picture the mountain folk in ridiculous attire. ■ (a mountain/mountains of) a large pile or quantity of something: a mountain of paperwork. ■ [usu. with *adj.*] a large surplus stock of a commodity: this farming produced huge food mountains. ▶Middle English: from Old French *montaigne*, based on Latin *mons*, *mountain*. **—mountain-y** *adj.*

▶**PHRASES** □ **make a mountain out of a molehill** see **MOLEHILL**. □ **move mountains** 1 achieve spectacular and apparently impossible results. 2 make every possible effort: his fans move mountains to catch as many of his performances as possible.

mountain ash *n.* 1 a small deciduous tree of the rose family, with compound leaves, white flowers, and red berries. Also called **ROWAN**. • Genus *Sorbus*, family Rosaceae: several species, in particular the North American *S. americana*. 2 *Austral.* a eucalyptus tree that is widely used for timber. • Genus *Eucalyptus*, family Myrtaceae: several species, in particular the very tall *E. regnans*.

mountain avens *n.* a creeping arctic-alpine plant with white flowers and glossy leaves. See also **DRYAS**. • *Dryas octopetala*, family Rosaceae.

mountain beaver *n.* a burrowing forest-dwelling rodent occurring only in western North America, from British Columbia to California. Also called **SEWELLEL**. • *Aplodontia rufa*, the only member of the family Aplodontiidae.

mountain bike *n.* a bicycle with a light sturdy frame, broad deep-treaded tires, and multiple gears, originally designed for riding on mountainous terrain. **—mountain biker** *n.* **—mountain biking** *n.*

mountain-board-ing /'maʊntn,bōrdɪŋ/ *n.* the sport or recreational activity of riding a dirtboard down hills and mountains. **—mountain-board** *n.*

mountain chain *n.* a connected series of mountains.

mountain cran-ber-ry *n.* (pl. **-ries**) a low-growing evergreen dwarf shrub of the heath family that bears dark red berries and grows in upland habitats in the north. Also called **CROWBERRY**, **LINGONBERRY**. • *Vaccinium vitis-idaea*, family Ericaceae. ■ the edible acid berry of this plant, which may be used as a cranberry substitute.

mountain dew *n.* informal illicitly distilled liquor, esp. whiskey or rum; moonshine.

mountain dul-ci-mer *n.* see **DULCIMER**.

Pronunciation Key ə ago; ər over; 'ə or, ə up; 'ər or, ər fur; a hat; ā rate; ā car; CH chew; e let; ē see; e(ə)r air; i fit; i by; i(ə)r ear; Nə sing; ō go; ō for; oi boy; ōō good; ōō goo; ou out; SH she; TH thin; TH then; (h)w why; ZH vision

small fragrant flowers and is native chiefly to Australasia. • Genus *Pittosporum*, family Pittosporaceae. ▶ modern Latin, from Greek *pitta* 'pitch' (because of the resinous pulp around the seeds) + *sporos* 'seed.'

Pitt-Rivers /'rɪvəz/, Augustus Henry Lane Fox (1827–1900), English archaeologist and anthropologist. He developed a new scientific approach to archaeology. His collection of weapons and artifacts from different cultures formed the basis of the ethnological museum in Oxford that bears his name.

Pittsburg /'pɪtsbɜːrɡ/ an industrial port city in north central California, on Suisun Bay, northeast of Oakland; pop. 47,564.

Pittsburgh /'pɪtsbɜːrɡ/ an industrial city in southwestern Pennsylvania, where the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers join to form the Ohio River; pop. 334,563.

Pittsfield /'pɪtsfɛld/ an industrial city in western Massachusetts, on the Housatonic River, the commercial center of the Berkshire Hills; pop. 48,622.

pituitary /pə'tɪ(y)ʊə,terē/ *n.* (pl. *-tar-ies*) (in full *pituitary gland* or *pituitary body*) the major endocrine gland. A pea-sized body attached to the base of the brain, the pituitary is important in controlling growth and development and the functioning of the other endocrine glands. Also called **HYPOPHYSIS**.

▶ *adj.* of or relating to this gland. ▶ early 17th cent.: from Latin *pituitarius* 'secreting phlegm,' from *pituita* 'phlegm.'

pit viper *n.* a venomous snake of a group distinguished by visible sensory pits on the head that can detect heat emitted by their prey. They are found in both America and Asia. • Subfamily Crotalinae, family Viperidae: numerous genera and species, including the rattlesnakes.

pity /'pɪtə/ *n.* (pl. *pities*) **1** the feeling of sorrow and compassion caused by the suffering and misfortunes of others: *her voice was full of pity*. **2** [in *sing.*] a cause for regret or disappointment: *what a pity we can't be friends*.

▶ *v.* (*pities*, *pitied*) [*trans.*] feel sorrow for the misfortunes of: *Clare didn't know whether to envy or pity them* [as *adj.*] (*pitiful*) *he gave her a pitying look*. ▶ Middle English (also in the sense 'clemency, mildness'): from Old French *pīte* 'compassion,' from Latin *pietas* 'piety'; compare with **PIETY**. — *pit-y-ing-ly* *adv.*

▶ **PHRASES** □ *for pity's sake* *informal* used to express impatience or make an urgent appeal. □ *more's the pity* *informal* used to express regret about a fact that has just been stated. □ *take (or have) pity* show compassion: *they took pity on him and gave him food*.

pityriasis /'pɪtəriəsɪs/ *n.* [with *adj.*] *Medicine* a skin disease characterized by the shedding of fine flaky scales. ▶ late 17th cent.: modern Latin, from Greek *piturias* 'scurf,' from *pituron* 'bran,' + *-ASIS*.

piu /pyoo/ *adj.* *Music* (esp. as a direction) more.

piu mos-so /pyoo 'mōsō/ *adv.* & *adj.* *Music* (esp. as a direction) more quickly. ▶ Italian.

Plus XII /'piəs/ (1876–1958), pope 1939–58; born Eugenio Pacelli. He upheld the neutrality of the Roman Catholic Church during World War II and was criticized after the war for failing to condemn Nazi atrocities.

pivot /'pɪvət/ *n.* the central point, pin, or shaft on which a mechanism turns or oscillates. ■ [usu. in *sing.*] a person or thing that plays a central part in an activity or organization: *the pivot of community life was the chapel*. ■ the person or people about whom a body of troops wheels. ■ (also *pivotman*) a player in a central position in a team sport. ■ *Basketball* a movement in which the player holding the ball may move in any direction with one foot, while keeping the other (the *pivot foot*) in contact with the floor.

▶ *v.* (*pivoted*, *pivot-ing*) [*intrans.*] turn on or as if on a pivot: *the sail pivots around the axis of a virtually static mast* | *he swung around, pivoting on his heel*. ■ (*pivot on*) *figurative* depend on: *your escape pivots on my disappearing with you*. ■ [*trans.*] provide (a mechanism) with a pivot; fix (a mechanism) on a pivot: [as *adj.*] (*pivoted*) a pivoted bracket. ▶ late Middle English: from French, probably from the root of dialect *pue* 'tooth of a comb' and Spanish *pulya* 'point.' The verb dates from the mid 19th cent. — *piv-ot-a-bil-ity* /'pɪvətə'bɪlɪtɪ/ *n.* — *piv-ot-a-ble* *adj.*

pivotal /'pɪvətəl/ *adj.* of crucial importance in relation to the development or success of something else: *the alliance that played a pivotal role in the revolution*. ■ fixed on or as if on a pivot: *a sliding or pivotal motion*.

pix /pɪks/ *plural n.* *informal* pictures, esp. photographs. ▶ 1930s: pluralized abbreviation.

pix² *n.* variant spelling of **PVX**.

pix-el /'pɪksəl/ *n.* *Electronics* a minute area of illumination on a display screen, one of many from which an image is composed. ▶ 1960s: abbreviation of *picture element* (compare with **PIX1**).

pix-el-ate /'pɪksələt/ (also *pix-el-late* or *pix-il-ate*) *v.* [*trans.*] divide (an image) into pixels, typically for display or storage in a digital format. ■ (*be pixelated*) (of an image on a computer screen or other display) be enlarged so far that the viewer sees the individual pixels that form the image, the enlargement having reached the point at which no further detail can be resolved. ■ display an image of (someone or something) on television as a small number of large pixels, typically in order to disguise someone's identity. — *pix-el-a-tion* /'pɪksələ'shən/ *n.*

pix-ie /'pɪksɪ/ (also *pix-y*) *n.* (pl. *pix-ies*) a supernatural being in folklore and children's stories, typically portrayed as small and humanlike in form, with pointed ears and a pointed hat, and mischievous in character. ▶ mid 17th cent.: of unknown origin. — *pix-ie-ish* *adj.*

pix-ie dust *n.* in Sir James Barrie's *Peter Pan*, magic dust taken or shaken from a pixie or fairy, enabling humans to fly. ■ unusually great success, felicity, or luck: *the folks who live there still seem to believe that they've been sprinkled with pixie dust*.

pix-il-ate /'pɪksələt/ *v.* variant spelling of **PIXELATE**.

pix-il-ated /'pɪksəlɪtəd/ (*Brit.* also *pix-il-lat-ed*) *adj.* crazy; confused. ▶ mid 19th cent.: variant of *pixieled*, literally 'led astray by pixies,' figuratively 'confused,' or from **PIXIE**, on the pattern of words such as *elated* and *emulated*.

pix-ila-tion /'pɪksələ'shən/ (*Brit.* also *pix-il-la-tion*) *n.* **1** a technique used in film whereby the movements of real people are made to appear like artificial animations. **2** the state of being crazy or confused. **3** variant spelling of **PIXELATION** (see **PIXELATE**).

Pizar-ro /pi'zārō; pē'sā-; -'thā-, Francisco (c.1478–1541), Spanish conquistador. He defeated the Inca empire and in 1533 set up a puppet monarchy at Cuzco. He built his own capital at Lima 1535, where he was assassinated.

pizz *abbr.* *Music* pizzicato.

pizza /'pɛtsə/ *n.* a dish of Italian origin consisting of a flat, round base of dough baked with a topping of tomato sauce and cheese, typically with added meat or vegetables. ▶ Italian, literally 'pie.'

piz-za box *n.* a computer casing that is not very tall and has a square cross section.

piz-zazz /pə'zaz/ (also *pi-zazz*) *n.* *informal* an attractive combination of vitality and glamour: *a new way to add graphic pizzazz to your desktop-publishing project*. ▶ said to have been invented by Diana Vreeland, fashion editor of *Harper's Bazaar* in the 1930s.

piz-ze-ri-a /'pɛtsə'reɪ/ *n.* a place where pizzas are made or sold; a pizza restaurant. ▶ Italian.

piz-zi-ca-to /'pɪtsɪ'kātō/ *Music* *adv.* (often as a direction) plucking the strings of a violin or other stringed instrument with one's finger.

▶ *adj.* performed in this way. ▶ *n.* (pl. *-tos* or *-ti* /-tē/) this technique of playing. ■ a note or passage played in this way. ▶ Italian, literally 'pinched, twitched,' past participle of *pizzicare*, based on *pizza* 'point, edge.'

piz-zle /'pɪzəl/ *n.* the penis of an animal, esp. a bull. ▶ late 15th cent.: from Low German *pēsel* or Flemish *pezel* (diminutives of Middle Low German *pēse* and Middle Dutch *pēze*).

PK *abbr.* ■ psychokinesis.

pK *n.* *Chemistry* a figure expressing the acidity or alkalinity of a solution of a weak electrolyte in a similar way to pH, equal to $-\log_{10} K$ where K is the dissociation (or ionization) constant of the electrolyte. ▶ from p as in pH and K representing a constant.

pk *abbr.* (also **Pk**) park. ■ peak. ■ peck(s).

pkg *abbr.* (pl. *pkgs.*) package.

pkt *abbr.* ■ packet. ■ pocket.

PKU *abbr.* phenylketonuria.

pkwy *abbr.* parkway.

pkwy *abbr.* parkway.

PL *abbr.* ■ Computing programming language. ■ Military patrol leader.

pl *abbr.* ■ (also **Pl**) place: 3 Palmerston Pl., Edinburgh. ■ plate (referring to illustrations in a book). ■ chiefly Military platoon. ■ Grammar plural.

PL1 *n.* Computing a high-level programming language used in science, engineering, business, and data processing. ▶ from **P**(rogramming) **L**(anguage) **1**.

PLA *abbr.* ■ People's Liberation Army. ■ (in the UK) Port of London Authority.

plac-a-ble /'plakəbəl/ *adj.* *archaic* easily calmed; gentle and forgiving. ▶ late Middle English (in the sense 'pleasing, agreeable'): from Old French, or from Latin *placabilis*, from *placare* 'appease.' — *plac-a-bil-ity* /'plakə'bɪlɪtɪ/ *n.* — *plac-a-bly* /-əbəl/ *adv.*

plac-ard /'plakɑːd; -ərd/ *n.* a poster or sign for public display, either fixed to a wall or carried during a demonstration.

▶ *v.* [*trans.*] cover with placards: *they were placarding the town with posters*. ▶ late 15th cent. (denoting a warrant or license): from Old French *placard*, from *plaquier* 'to plaster, lay flat,' from Middle Dutch *placken*. The current sense of the verb dates from the early 19th cent.

plac-a-tion /'plākət/ *v.* [*trans.*] make (someone) less angry or hostile: *they attempted to placate the students with promises*. See note at **PACIFY**. ▶ late 17th cent.: from Latin *placat-* 'appeased,' from the verb *placare*. — *plac-a-ter* *n.* — *plac-a-ting-ly* /plə'kætɪŋ-lē/ *adv.* — *plac-a-tion* /plə'kæʃən/ *n.* — *plac-a-to-ry* /-kə,tōrē; 'plakə-/ *adj.*

place /plās/ *n.* **1** a particular position or point in space: *there were still some remote places in the world* | *the monastery was a peaceful place*. ■ used to refer to an area already identified (giving an impression of informality): *we head to a disco—the place is pandemonium*. ■ a particular point on a larger surface or in a larger object or area: *he lashed out and cut the policeman's hand in three places*. ■ a building or area used for a specified purpose or activity: *the town has many excellent eating places*. ■ *informal* a person's home: *what about dinner at my place?* ■ a point in a book or other text reached by a reader at a particular time: *I must have lost my place in the script*. **2** a portion of space occupied by someone: *he was watching from his place across the room*. ■ a portion of space available or designated for someone: *they hurried to their places at the table*. ■ a vacancy or available position: *she won a place to study German at the university*. ■ the regular or proper position of something: *lay each slab in place*. ■ [often with *negative*] somewhere where it is appropriate or prudent for someone to be or for something to occur: *that street at that time was no place for a lady*. ■ a chance to be accepted or to be of use: *the policy left no place for individual initiative*. ■ a person's rank or status: *occupation structures a person's place in society*. ■ [usu. with *negative*] a right or privilege resulting from someone's role or position: *I'm sure she has a story to tell, but it's not my place to ask*. ■ the role played by or importance attached to someone or something in a particular context: *the place of computers in improving office efficiency varies between companies*. **3** a position in a sequence, in particular: ■ a position in a contest: *his score was good enough to leave him in ninth place*. ■ the second position, esp. in a horse race. ■ *Brit.* any of the first three or sometimes four positions in a race (used esp. of the second, third, or fourth positions). ■ the degree of priority given to something: *accurate reportage takes second place to lurid detail*. ■ the position of a figure in a series indicated in decimal or similar notation, esp. one after the decimal point: *calculate the ratios to one decimal place*. **4** [in *place names*] a square or a short street: *our new restaurant is in Hilliard Place*. ■ a country house with its grounds.

▶ *v.* [*trans.*] **1** [*trans.*] put in a particular position: *a newspaper had been placed beside my plate*. ■ cause to be in a particular situation: *enemy officers were placed under arrest* | *you are not placing yourself under any obligation*. ■ used to express the attitude someone has toward someone or something: *I am not able to place any trust in you*. ■ (*be placed*) used to indicate the degree of advantage or convenience enjoyed by someone or something as a result of their position or circumstances: [with *infinitive*] *the company is well placed to seize the opportunity*. **2** [*trans.*] find a home or employment for: *the children were placed with foster parents* | *the agency had placed 3,000 people in full-time jobs*. ■ dispose of (something, esp. shares) by selling to a customer. ■ arrange for the recognition and implementation of (an order, bet, etc.): *they placed a contract for three boats*. ■ order or obtain a connection for (a telephone call) through an operator. **3** [*trans.*] identify or classify as being of a specified type or as holding a specified position in a sequence or hierarchy: *a survey placed the company 13th for achievement*. ■ [*trans.*] [usu. with *negative*] remember where one has seen or how one comes to recognize (someone)

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