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bi-fur-ca-tion \bi-(f)ər-'kā-shən/ *n* (1615) **1 a**: the point at which bifurcating occurs **b**: BRANCH **2**: the act of bifurcating: the state of being bifurcated

big \big/ *adj* **big-ger**; **big-gest** [ME, perh. of Scand origin; akin to Norw dial. *bugge* important man] (14c) **1 a obs**: of great strength **b**: of great force <a ~ storm> **2 a**: large or great in dimensions, bulk, or extent <a ~ house>; also: large or great in quantity, number, or amount <a ~ fleet> **b**: operating on a large scale <~ government> **c**: CAPITAL **1 3 a**: PREGNANT; esp: nearly ready to give birth **b**: full to bursting; SWELLING <~ with rage> **c of the voice**: full and resonant **4 a**: CHIEF, PREEMINENT <the ~ issue of the campaign> **b**: outstandingly worthy or able <a truly ~ man> **c**: of great importance or significance <the ~ moment> **d**: IMPOSING, PRETENTIOUS; also: marked by or given to boasting <~ talk> **e**: MAGNANIMOUS, GENEROUS <was ~ about it> **5**: POPULAR <soft drinks are very ~ in Mexico> — Russ Leadabrand **6**: full-bodied and flavorful — used of wine — **big-ly** *adv* — **big-ness** *n* — **big on**: strongly favoring or liking; also: noted for (she is *big on* blushing — Arnold Hano)

big adv (1556) **1**: in a loud or declamatory manner; also: in a boasting manner <talk ~> **2 a**: to a large amount or extent <won ~> **b**: on a large scale <think ~> **3**: HARD <hits her forehead ~>

big n (1833): an individual or organization of outstanding importance or power; esp: MAJOR LEAGUE — usu. used in pl. <playing in the ~s>

big-a-mous \bi-gə-'məʃ/ *adj* (1671) **1**: guilty of bigamy <a ~ man> **2**: involving bigamy <a ~ marriage> — **big-a-mous-ly** *adv*

big-a-my \bi-gə-'mē/ *n* [ME *bigamie*, fr. ML *bigamia*, fr. L *bi-* + *LL* *-gamia* -gamy] (14c): the act of entering into a marriage with one person while still legally married to another — **big-a-mist** \-'mɪst/ *n*

bi-ga-rade \bi-gə-'rād/ *n* [F, fr. Occitan *bigarrado*, fr. *bigarra* to variegate] (1658) **1**: SOUR ORANGE **2**: a brown sauce flavored with the juice and grated rind of oranges

big band *n* (1917): a band that is larger than a combo and that usu. features a mixture of ensemble playing and solo improvisation typical of jazz or swing

big bang *n* (1950): the cosmic explosion that marked the beginning of the universe according to the big bang theory — compare BIG CRUNCH

big bang theory *n* (1955): a theory in astronomy: the universe originated billions of years ago in an explosion from a single point of nearly infinite energy density — compare STEADY STATE THEORY

big beat *n*, often *cap both Bs* (1957): music (as rock) characterized by a heavy persistent beat

Big Ben \-'ben/ *n* [Sir Benjamin Hall †1867 Eng. Chief Commissioner of Works] (1859) **1**: a large bell in the clock tower of the Houses of Parliament in London **2**: the tower that houses Big Ben; also: the clock in the tower

big bluestem *n* (1887): BLUESTEM **1**

big-box \bi-g, 'bāks/ *adj* (1990): of, relating to, or being a large chain store having a boxlike structure — **big box** *n*

big boy *n* (1916): BIG GUN — usu. used in pl.

big brother *n* (1809) **1**: an older brother **2**: a man who serves as a companion, father figure, and role model for a boy **3 cap both Bs** [Big Brother, personification of the power of the state in 1984 (1949) by George Orwell] **a**: the leader of an authoritarian state or movement **b**: an all-powerful government or organization monitoring and directing people's actions

Big Brother-ism \-'brə-'thər-'i-zəm/ *n* (1950): authoritarian attempts at complete control (as of a person or a nation)

big brown bat *n* (1898): an insectivorous medium-sized bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*) having brownish fur that is found from southern Canada to northern South America and that often roosts in buildings

big buck *n* (1941): a large sum of money — usu. used in pl. <signed a contract for *big bucks*>

big business *n* (1905) **1**: an economic group consisting of large profit-making corporations esp. with regard to their influence on social or political policy **2**: a very profitable enterprise

big c *n*, often *cap B* (1964): CANCER **2**

big cheese *n* (1912): BOSS, BIG GUN

big crunch *n*, often *cap B&C* (1977): a hypothetical cosmological event in which all matter in the universe collapses to a singularity and which is posited to be a possible fate of the universe if the density of matter in it is sufficiently high — compare BIG BANG

big daddy *n*, often *cap B&D* (1881): one preeminent esp. by reason of power, size, or seniority: one representing paternalistic authority

big data *n* (1980): an accumulation of data that is too large and complex for processing by traditional database management tools

big deal *n* (1915): something of special importance <what's the *big deal*?> — sometimes used ironically as an interjection

Big Dipper *n* (1853): the seven principal stars in the constellation of Ursa Major

bi-gem-i-ny \bi-'je-mə-nē/ *n* [bigeminal (double, paired), fr. LL *bigeminus*, fr. *bi-* + *geminus* twin] (ca. 1923): the state of having a pulse characterized by two beats close together with a pause following each pair of beats — **bi-gem-i-nal** \-'mā-nəl/ *adj*

big-eye \bi-g, 'ī/ *n* (1861): any of several small widely distributed redfish to silvery bony fishes (genus *Priacanthus* of the family Priacanthidae) of tropical seas

bigeye tuna *n* (1944): a large-eyed tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) that has long pectoral fins and often a bluish stripe on the side and is found in warm ocean waters worldwide

big-foot \bi-g, 'fūt/ *n*, pl **big-feet** \-'fēt/ or **big-foots** often *cap* (1958) **1** [fr. the size of the footprints ascribed to it]: SASQUATCH **2**: BIG SHOT

big game *n* (1773) **1**: relatively large animals sought or taken by hunting or fishing esp. for sport **2**: an important objective esp. when involving risk

big-ge-ty or **big-gi-ty** \bi-gə-'tē/ *adj* [big + -ety (as in *persnickety*)] (1880) **1** Southern & Midland: CONCEITED, VAIN **2** Southern & Midland: rudely self-important: IMPUDENT <never acted ~ in court, but she would bow her head only so low> — Claude Brown

big-gie \bi-g, 'ī/ *n* (ca. 1926): one that is big and often important

big-gin or **big-ging** \bi-gən/ *n* [ME *bigging*, fr. *biggen* to dwell, fr. ON *byggja*; akin to OE *bēon* to be] (14c) *archaic*: BUILDING

biggin n [MF *beguin*] (1511) *archaic*: CAP: **a**: a child's cap **b**: NIGHTCAP

big-gish \bi-'gɪʃ/ *adj* (1611): somewhat big

big gun *n* (1830): one having preeminent status or power in a field

big hair *n* (1966): hair that is styled and teased to occupy an unusually large amount of space above and around the head

big-head \bi-'hed/ *n* (1784) **1**: any of several diseases of animals marked by swelling about the head **2**: an exaggerated opinion of one's importance — usu. used with *the* — **big-head-ed** \-'he-dəd/ *adj*

big-heart-ed \-'hɑr-təd/ *adj* (1846): GENEROUS, CHARITABLE — **big-heart-ed-ly** *adv* — **big-heart-ed-ness** *n*

big-horn sheep \bi-'hɔrn-'n/ *n* (1817): **a** usu. grayish-brown wild sheep (*Ovis canadensis*) of mountainous and desert regions of western No. America — called also *bighorn*

big house *n*, often *cap B&H* (1913) *slang*: PENITENTIARY

bight \bi't/ *n* [ME, fr. OE *byht* bend, bay; akin to OE *bīgan* to bend — more at BOW] (15c) **1**: a bend in a coast forming an open bay; also: a bay formed by such a bend **2**: a slack part or loop in a rope

big league *n* (1882) **1**: MAJOR LEAGUE **2**: BIG TIME **2** — often used in pl. — **big-league** *adj* — **big leaguer** *n*

big lie *n*, sometimes *cap B&L* (1824): a deliberate gross distortion of the truth used esp. as a propaganda tactic

big-mouthed \bi-g, 'maʊthd, 'bi-g, 'maʊth/ *adj* (1602) **1**: having a large mouth **2**: LOUDMOUTHED

big name *n* (1881): a performer or personage of top rank in popular recognition <a *big name* in the business world> — **big-name** *adj*

big-no-nia \bi-'nō-nē-ə/ *n* [NL, genus name, fr. J. P. Bignon †1743 Fr. royal librarian] (1785): a woody evergreen vine (*Bignonia capreolata*) of the family Bignoniaceae, the bignonia family) of the southern and central U.S. that has compound leaves and tubular flowers

big-ot \bi-'gət/ *n* [F, hypocrite, bigot] (1660): a person obstinately or intolerantly devoted to his or her own opinions and prejudices; esp: one who regards or treats the members of a group (as a racial or ethnic group) with hatred and intolerance — **big-ot-ed** \-'gə-təd/ *adj* — **big-ot-ed-ly** *adv*

big-ot-ry \bi-'gə-trē/ *n*, pl **-ries** (1632) **1**: the state of mind of a bigot **2**: acts or beliefs characteristic of a bigot

big picture *n*, often *cap B&P* (1904): the entire perspective on a situation or issue — used with *the*

big science *n*, often *cap B&S* (1914): large-scale scientific research consisting of projects funded usu. by a national government or group of governments

big screen *n* (1914): the motion-picture medium often as contrasted to television <a story adapted for the *big screen*> — **big-screen** *adj*

big shot \bi-'shət/ *n* (1929): a person of consequence or prominence

big stick *n* (1893): threat esp. of military or political intervention

big-tick-et \bi-'ti-kət/ *adj* (1945): having a high price (the car was a ~ item)

big-time \bi-'tīm/ *adj* (1910): relating to or involved in the big time <~ sports>; also: MAJOR **4** <~ operators>

big-time adv (1957): in a major or large-scale way <the new show bombed ~>; also: to a great extent or degree <owes me ~>

big time \-'tīm/ *n* (1910) **1**: a high-paying vaudeville circuit requiring only two performances a day **2**: the top rank of an activity or enterprise — **big-tim-er** \-'tīm-ər/ *n*

big toe *n* (1699): the innermost and largest toe of the foot

big top *n* (1763) **1**: the main tent of a circus **2**: CIRCUS **2a**, **b**, **c**

big tree *n* (1853): GIANT SEQUOIA

big wheel *n* (1942): BIGWIG, BIG SHOT

big-wig \bi-'wig/ *n* (1703): an important person

Bi-ha-ri \bi-'hār-ē/ *n* (1878) **1 a**: a native or inhabitant of Bihar — **b**: a Muslim born in Bihar who emigrated after the partition of India in 1947; also: a descendant of such a person **2**: a group of Indo-Aryan languages (as Bhojpuri) spoken in Bihar, India, and adjacent areas

bi-ject-ion \bi-'jekt-shən/ *n* [bi- + -jection (as in *injection*)] (1956): a mathematical function that is a one-to-one and onto mapping — compare INJECTION, SURJECTION — **bi-ject-ive** \-'jekt-tiv/ *adj*

bi-jou \bi-'zhū/ *n*, pl **bijoux** or **bi-joux** \-'zhū(z)/ [F, fr. Bret *bizou* ring, fr. *biz* finger] (1668) **1**: a small dainty usu. ornamental piece of delicate workmanship: JEWEL **2**: something delicate, elegant, or highly prized — **bijou** *adj*

bi-jou-te-rie \bi-'zhū-tə-'(r)ē/ *n* [F, fr. *bijou*] (1735): a collection of trinkets or ornaments: JEWELS; also: DECORATION

bike \bi'k/ *n* [ME] (14c) **1** chiefly Scot: a nest of wild bees, wasps, or hornets **2** chiefly Scot: a crowd or swarm of people

bike n [by shortening & alter.] (1880) **1**: BICYCLE **2**: MOTORCYCLE **3**: MOTORBIKE **4**: STATIONARY BICYCLE

bike vi biked; bik-ing (1885): to ride a bike

bik-er \bi-'kər/ *n* (1883) **1**: BICYCLIST **2**: MOTORCYCLIST; esp: one who is a member of an organized club or gang

bike-way \bi-'kə-wā/ *n* (1895): a thoroughfare for bicycles

bik-ie \bi-'kē/ *n* [bikie + -ie] (1967): BIKER **2**

bi-ki-ni \bi-'kē-nē/ *n* [F, fr. *Bikini*, atoll of the Marshall Islands] (1947) **1 a**: a woman's scanty two-piece bathing suit **b**: a man's brief swimsuit **2**: a man's or woman's low-cut briefs — **bi-ki-nied** also **bi-ki-ni'd** \-'nēd/ *adj*

bikini wax *n* (1973): a procedure for removing pubic hair from the skin near the edge of the bottom half of a bikini by applying hot wax, covering the wax with a cloth to which the wax and hair adhere, and then peeling it off quickly

bil abbr billion

bi-la-bi-al \bi-'lā-bē-əl/ *adj* [ISV] (1878) *of a consonant*: produced with both lips

bilabial *n* (1829): a bilabial consonant

bi-la-bi-ate \bi-'lā-bē-ət/ *adj* (1720): having two lips <a ~ corolla>

bi-lat-er-al \bi-'lā-t(ə)-rəl/ *adj* (1751) **1**: affecting reciprocally two nations or parties <a ~ treaty> <a ~ trade agreement> **2**: having two sides **3 a**: of, relating to, or affecting the right and left sides of the body or the right and left members of paired organs <~ nephrecto-



bighorn sheep

cultivated tree (*F. carica*) that produces edible figs 2: a worthless trifling bit (doesn't care a ~)
fig *n* [fig, vb., to adorn] (1835): DRESS, ARRAY (a young woman in dazzling royal full ~ — Mollie Panter-Downes)
fig *abbr* figurative; figuratively; figure
fight *vt* **fig** *vb* **fought** 'fɒt; **fight-ing** [ME, fr. OE *feohtan*; akin to OHG *fehtan* to fight and perh. to L *pectere* to comb — more at PECTINATE] *vi* (bef. 12c) 1 **a**: to contend in battle or physical combat; **esp**: to strive to overcome a person by blows or weapons 2 **b**: to engage in boxing 2: to put forth a determined effort ~ *vi* 1 **a** (1): to contend against in or as if in battle or physical combat (2): to box against in the ring 2 (1): to attempt to prevent the success or effectiveness of (the company *fought* the takeover attempt) (2): to oppose the passage or development of (a bill in Congress) 2 **a**: WAGE, CARRY ON (a battle) 2 **b**: to take part in (as a boxing match) 3: to struggle to endure or surmount (a cold) 4 **a**: to gain by struggle (his way through) 5 **a**: to resolve by struggle (fought out their differences in court) 5 **a**: to manage (a ship) in a battle or storm 2: to cause to struggle or contend 3: to manage in an unnecessarily rough or awkward manner — **fight shy of**: to avoid facing or meeting
fight *n* (bef. 12c) 1 **a**: a hostile encounter: BATTLE, COMBAT 2 **b**: a boxing match 3: a verbal disagreement: ARGUMENT 2: a struggle for a goal or an objective (a ~ for justice) 3: strength or disposition for fighting: PUGNACITY (still full of ~)
fighter 'fɪ-tər *n* (13c): one that fights: as 1 (1): WARRIOR, SOLDIER (2): a pugnacious or game individual (3): BOXER 1 **b**: an airplane of high speed and maneuverability with armament designed to destroy enemy aircraft
fighter-bomber 'bɑ-mər *n* (1936): a fighter aircraft fitted to carry bombs and rockets in addition to its normal armament
fighting chair *n* (1950): a chair from which a salt-water angler plays a hooked fish
fighting chance *n* (1889): a chance that may be realized by a struggle (the patient had a fighting chance to live)
fighting word *n* (1917): a word likely to provoke a fight
fight-or-flight *adj* (1973): relating to, being, or causing physiological changes in the body (as an increase in heart rate or dilation of bronchi) in response to stress (epinephrine is a ~ hormone) (a ~ reaction)
fight song *n* (1954): a song used to inspire enthusiasm usu. during an athletic competition
fig leaf *n* (14c) 1: the leaf of a fig tree 2 [fr. the use by Adam and Eve of fig leaves to cover their nakedness after eating the forbidden fruit (Gen. 3:7)]: something that conceals or camouflages usu. inadequately or dishonestly
fig-ment 'fɪ-g-mənt *n* [ME, fr. L *figmentum*, fr. *figere* to shape — more at DOUGH] (15c): something made up or contrived
fig-ur-al 'fɪ-g(y)-rəl *adj* (15c) 1: FIGURATIVE 2 **a**: of, relating to, or consisting of human or animal figures (a ~ composition)
fig-u-ra-tion 'fɪ-g(y)-rā-shən *n* (14c) 1: FORM, OUTLINE 2: the act or process of creating or providing a figure 3: an act or instance of representation in figures and shapes (cubism was explained as a synthesis of colored ~s of objects — Janet Flanner) 4: ornamentation of a musical passage by using decorative and usu. repetitive figures
fig-u-ra-tive 'fɪ-g(y)-rə-tiv *adj* (14c) 1 **a**: representing by a figure or resemblance: EMBLEMATIC 2 **b**: of or relating to representation of form or figure in art (a ~ sculpture) 2 **a**: expressing one thing in terms normally denoting another with which it may be regarded as analogous: METAPHORICAL (a ~ language) 3 **b**: characterized by figures of speech (a ~ description) — **fig-u-ra-tive-ly** *adv* — **fig-u-ra-tive-ness** *n*
figure 'fɪ-gjər, Brit & often US 'fɪ-gər *n* [ME, fr. AF, fr. L *figura*, fr. *figere*] (13c) 1 **a**: a number symbol: NUMERAL, DIGIT 2 **b** *pl*: arithmetic calculations (good at ~s) 3 **c**: a written or printed character 4: value esp. as expressed in numbers: SUM, PRICE (sold at a low ~) 5 *pl*: digits representing an amount (as of money earned or points scored) (made six ~s last year) (a score in double ~s) 2 **a**: a geometric form (as a line, triangle, or sphere) esp. when considered as a set of geometric elements (as points) in space of a given number of dimensions (a square is a plane ~) 2 **b**: bodily shape or form esp. of a person (a slender ~) 3 **c**: an object noticeable only as a shape or form (a ~ moving in the dusk) 3 **a**: the graphic representation of a form esp. of a person or geometric entity 2: a diagram or pictorial illustration of textual matter 4: a person, thing, or action representative of another 5 **a**: FIGURE OF SPEECH 2: an intentional deviation from the ordinary form or syntactical relation of words 6: the form of a syllogism with respect to the relative position of the middle term 7: an often repetitive pattern or design in a manufactured article (as cloth) or natural product (as wood) (a polka-dot ~) 8: appearance made: impression produced (the couple cut quite a ~) 9 **a**: a series of movements in a dance 2: an outline representation of a form traced by a series of evolutions (as with skates on an ice surface or by an airplane in the air) 10: a prominent personality: PERSONAGE (great ~s of history) 11: a short coherent group of notes or chords that may constitute part of a phrase, theme, or composition
figure *vb* **fig-ured**; **fig-ur-ing** 'fɪ-gjə-rɪŋ, 'fɪ-g(ə)-rɪŋ *vi* (14c) 1: to represent by or as if by a figure or outline 2: to decorate with a pattern; also: to write figures over or under (the bass) in order to indicate the accompanying chords 3: to indicate or represent by numerals 4 **a**: CALCULATE 2: CONCLUDE, DECIDE (figured there was no use in further effort); also: ASSUME (it will rain) 3: REGARD, CONSIDER 4: to appear likely (a ~ to win) ~ *vi* 1 **a**: to be or appear important or conspicuous 2: to be involved or implicated (figured in a robbery) 2: to perform a figure in dancing 3: COMPUTE, CALCULATE 4: to seem rational, normal, or expected (that ~s) 5: to make sense of something — used interjectionally in the phrase *go figure* to suggest that something is surprising or perplexing (why do they think women will buy this lie? Go ~ — Ellen Bravo) — **fig-ur-er** 'g(y)-ər-ər *n* — **figure on** 1: to take into consideration (figuring on the extra income) 2: to rely on 3: PLAN (figure on going into town)
figured *adj* (15c) 1: adorned with, formed into, or marked with a figure (a ~ muslin) (a ~ wood) 2: being represented: PORTRAYED 3: indicated by figures
figured bass *n* (1801): CONTINUO

figure eight *n* (1748): something resembling the Arabic numeral eight in form or shape: as 1 **a**: a small knot — see KNOT illustration 2: an embroidery stitch 3: a dance pattern 4: a skater's figure — called also *figure-of-eight*
figure-head 'fɪ-g(y)-həd *n* (1765) 1: the figure on a ship's bow 2: a head or chief in name only
figure in *vt* (ca. 1934): to include esp. in a reckoning
figure of merit (ca. 1865): a numerical quantity based on one or more characteristics of a system or device that represents a measure of efficiency or effectiveness
figure of speech (1751): a form of expression (as a simile or metaphor) used to convey meaning or heighten effect often by comparing or identifying one thing with another that has a meaning or connotation familiar to the reader or listener
figure out *vt* (1600) 1: DISCOVER, DETERMINE (try to figure out a way to do it) 2: SOLVE, FATHOM (figure out a problem)
figure skating *n* (1852): skating characterized by the performance of various jumps, spins, and dance movements and formerly by the tracing of prescribed figures — **figure skater** *n*
fig-u-rine 'fɪ-g(y)-rɪn *n* [F, fr. It. *figurina*, dim. of *figura* figure, fr. L — more at FIGURE] (1854): a small carved or molded figure: STATUETTE
fig wasp *n* (1883): a minute wasp (*Blastophaga psenes* of the family Agaonidae) that breeds in the caprifig and is the agent of caprifigging; broadly: any wasp of the same family
fig-wort 'fɪ-g-wɔrt, -wɔrt *n* (1548): any of a genus (*Scrophularia*) of chiefly herbaceous often fetid plants of the snapdragon family with terminal cymes of small purple, yellow, or greenish flowers
Fijian 'fɪ-j(ə)-ən, -j(ə)-ən *n* (1809) 1: a member of a Melanesian people of Fiji 2: the Austronesian language of the Fijians — **Fijian** *adj*
fila-ment 'fɪ-lə-mənt *n* [MF, fr. ML *filamentum*, fr. LL *filare* to spin — more at FILE] (1594): a single thread or a thin flexible threadlike object, process, or appendage: as 1 **a**: a tenuous conductor (as of carbon or metal) made incandescent by the passage of an electric current; **specif**: a cathode in the form of a metal wire in an electron tube 2 (1): a thin and fine elongated constituent part of a gill (2): an elongated thin series of cells attached one to another or a very long thin cylindrical single cell (as of some algae, fungi, or bacteria) 3: the anther-bearing stalk of a stamen — see FLOWER illustration — **fila-men-tary** 'fɪ-lə-men-t(ə)-rɪ *adj* — **fila-men-tous** 'fɪ-lə-men-təs *adj*
fil-ar 'fɪ-lər *adj* [L *filum* thread] (ca. 1859): of or relating to a thread or line; **esp**: having threads across the field of view (a ~ eyepiece)
fil-ar-ia 'fɪ-lər-ē-ə *n*, *pl* -l-ae 'ē-ē, -ē-ā [NL, genus name, fr. L *filum*] (1833): any of numerous slender filamentous nematodes (*Filaria* and related genera) that as adults are parasites in the blood or tissues of mammals and as larvae usu. develop in biting insects — **fil-ar-i-al** 'ē-ə *adj* — **fil-ar-i-id** 'ē-əd *adj* or *n*
fil-a-ri-a-sis 'fɪ-lə-rɪ-ə-səs *n*, *pl* -a-ses 'sēz [NL] (1879): infestation with or disease caused by filariae
fil-a-ture 'fɪ-l-ə-tʃər, -chər, -t(y)-ūr *n* [F, fr. LL *filatus*, pp. of *filare*] (1759): a factory where silk is reeled
fil-bert 'fɪ-lbɜrt *n* [ME, fr. AF *philber*, fr. St. Philibert †684 Frankish abbot whose feast day falls in the nutting season] (14c) 1: either of two Eurasian hazels (*Corylus avellana* and *C. maxima*) 2: the sweet thick-shelled nut of the filbert; broadly: HAZELNUT
filch 'fɪlʃ *vt* [ME] (1561): to appropriate furtively or casually (a ~ cookie) *syn* see STEAL
file 'fɪ-(ə)l *n* [ME, fr. OE *fēol*; akin to OHG *fila* file] (bef. 12c) 1: a tool usu. of hardened steel with cutting ridges for forming or smoothing surfaces esp. of metal 2: a shrewd or crafty person
file *vt* **filed**; **fil-ing** (13c): to rub, smooth, or cut away with or as if with a file
file *vi* **filed**; **fil-ing** [ME, fr. OE *fylan*, fr. *fūl* foul] (bef. 12c) chiefly dial: DEFILE, CORRUPT
file *vb* **filed**; **fil-ing** [ME, fr. ML *filare* to string documents on a string or wire, fr. *filum* file of documents, lit., thread, fr. L: akin to Arm *jil* sinew] *vi* (15c) 1: to arrange in order for preservation and reference (a ~ letters) 2 **a**: to place among official records as prescribed by law (a mortgage) 2 **b**: to send (copy) to a newspaper (filed a story) 3: to return to the office of the clerk of a court without action on the merits 3: to initiate (as a legal action) through proper formal procedure (threatened to ~ charges) ~ *vi* 1: to register as a candidate esp. in a primary election 2: to place items in a file 3: to submit documents necessary to initiate a legal proceeding (a ~ for bankruptcy) — **filer** 'fɪ-lər *n*
file *n* (1525) 1: a device (as a folder, case, or cabinet) by means of which papers are kept in order 2 **a** *archaic*: ROLL, LIST 2 **b**: a collection of papers or publications usu. arranged or classified 3 (1): a collection of related data records (as for a computer) (2): a complete collection of data (as text or a program) treated by a computer as a unit esp. for purposes of input and output — on **file**: in or as if in a file for ready reference
file *n* [MF, fr. *filer* to spin, draw out, fr. LL *filare*, fr. L *filum*] (1598) 1: SINGLE FILE 2: any of the rows of squares that extend across a chessboard from one player's side to the other player's side
file *vi* **filed**; **fil-ing** (1614): to march or proceed in single file
file also **file** 'fɪ-lə, 'fɪ-ē-lə, 'fɪ-(ə)l *n* [LaF, fr. F, pp. of *filer* to twist, spin] (1806): powdered young leaves of saffras used to thicken soups or stews
file clerk *n* (1919): a clerk who works on files
file-fish 'fɪ-(ə)l-fɪʃ *n* (1681): any of various small-mouthed bony fishes (family Monacanthidae, esp. genera *Aluterus*, *Cantherhines*, and *Monacanthus*) with rough granular leathery skin
filet 'fɪ-lə *n* [F, lit., net] (1838): a lace with a square mesh and geometric designs

\ə/ abut \ə/ kitten, F table \ər/ further \ə/ ash \ə/ ace \ə/ mop, mar
 \ə/ out \ch/ chin \e/ bet \ē/ easy \g/ go \i/ hit \i/ ice \j/ job
 \ŋ/ sing \d/ go \d/ law \d/ boy \th/ thin \th/ the \u/ loot \u/ foot
 \y/ yet \zh/ vision, beige \k, ŋ, œ, ʌ/ see Guide to Pronunciation

and agitate with air from the lungs **b**: to cleanse or disinfect (the oral cavity) in this manner **2**: to utter with a gargling sound *vi* **1**: to use a gargle **2**: to speak or sing as if gargling

gargle *n* (1629) **1**: a liquid used in gargling **2**: a sound of or like that of gargling

gar-goyle \gär-gōi(-ə)l\ *n* [ME *gargule*, *gargoyl*, fr. OF *gargouille*] (13c) **1** *a*: a spout in the form of a grotesque human or animal figure projecting from a roof gutter to throw rainwater clear of a building **b**: a grotesquely carved figure **2**: a person with an ugly face — **gar-goyle** \gōi(-ə)ld\ *adj*

gar-i-bal-di \gär-ə-'böl-dē\ *n* (1862): a woman's blouse copied from the red shirt worn by the Italian patriot Garibaldi

Gar-i-fu-na \gär-rē-'fū-nə\ *n*, *pl* **Garifuna** or **Gar-i-fu-nas** [Garifuna *garifuna*, a self-designation; akin to Taino *caribe*, *caribi* Carib, Island Carib (Arawakan language of the Lesser Antilles) *Callipona*, a self-designation, Guianan Carib *kari'na* Carib, person] (1977): a member of a people of African and American Indian descent that live mainly along the Caribbean coast of northern Central America — called also *Black Carib*; also: the Arawakan language containing many Cariban elements spoken by the Garifunas

gar-rigue \gä-'rēg\ *n* [F] (1896): a low open scrubland with many evergreen shrubs, low trees, aromatic herbs, and bunchgrasses found in poor or dry soil in the Mediterranean region

gar-ish \gär-ish\ *adj* [origin unknown] (1543) **1**: clothed in vivid colors **2** *a*: excessively or disturbingly vivid (< colors) (< imagery) **b**: offensively or distressingly bright: GLARING **3**: tastelessly showy: FLASHY *syn* see GAUDY — **gar-ish-ly** *adv* — **gar-ish-ness** *n*

gar-land \gär-länd\ *n* [ME, fr. AF *garlande*] (14c) **1**: a circular or spiral arrangement of intertwined material (as flowers or leaves) **2**: ANTHOLOGY, COLLECTION

garland *vt* (15c) **1**: to form into a garland **2**: to adorn with or as if with a garland

gar-lic \gär-lik\ *n* [ME *garlek*, fr. OE *gärleac*, fr. *gär* spear + *lēac* leek — more at GORE] (bef. 12c) **1**: a European allium (*Allium sativum*) widely cultivated for its pungent compound bulbs much used in cookery; broadly: ALLIUM **2**: a bulb of garlic — **gar-licky** \-li-kē\ *adj*

garlic chive *n* (1969): a perennial allium (*Allium tuberosum*) native to southeastern Asia but widely cultivated for its garlic-flavored stems, leaves, buds, and flower heads — usu. used in pl.; called also *Chinese chive*

gar-licked \gär-lik-t\ *adj* (1950): containing or prepared with garlic

gar-lic salt *n* (1927): a seasoning of ground dried garlic and salt

gar-ment \gär-mənt\ *n* [ME, fr. AF *garment*, fr. *garinir* to equip — more at GARNISH] (14c): an article of clothing

garment *vt* (ca. 1547): to clothe with or as if with a garment

garment bag *n* (1927): a bag used by travelers that folds in half and has a center handle for easy carrying

gar-ner \gär-när\ *vt* **gar-nered**; **gar-ner-ing** \gär-nr-ŋ, 'gär-nə-\ [ME (Sc), fr. ME *gerner*, *gerner* granary, fr. AF *gerner*, *grenier*, fr. L *granarium*, fr. *granum* grain — more at CORN] (14c) **1** *a*: to gather into storage **b**: to deposit as if in a granary (volumes in which he has ~ed the fruits of his lifetime labors — Reinhold Niebuhr) **2** *a*: to acquire by effort: EARN **b**: ACCUMULATE, COLLECT

gar-net \gär-nət\ *n* [ME *gernet*, fr. AF *gernet*, fr. *gernet* dark red, fr. *pume gernet* pomegranate] (14c) **1**: a brittle and more or less transparent usu. red silicate mineral that has a vitreous luster, occurs mainly in crystals but also in massive form and in grains, is found commonly in gneiss and mica schist, and is used as a semiprecious stone and as an abrasive **2**: a variable color averaging a dark red — **gar-net-if-er-ous** \gär-nə-'ti-f(ə)-rəs\ *adj*

gar-net paper *n* (ca. 1902): an abrasive paper with crushed garnet as the abrasive

gar-ni-er-ite \gär-nē-ə-'rit\ *n* [Jules *Garnier* †1904 Fr. geologist] (1875): a soft mineral consisting of hydrous nickel magnesium silicate and constituting an important ore of nickel

gar-nish \gär-nish\ *vt* [ME, fr. AF *garmiss-*, stem of *garinir* to warn, equip, garnish, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *warnōn* to take heed — more at WARN] (14c) **1** *a*: DECORATE, EMBELLISH **b**: to add decorative or savory touches to (food or drink) **2**: to equip with accessories: FURNISH **3**: GARNISH *syn* see ADORN

garnish *n* (1596) **1**: EMBELLISHMENT, ORNAMENT **2**: something (as lemon wedges or parsley) used to garnish food or drink **3** *a*: an unauthorized fee formerly extorted from a new inmate of an English jail **b**: a similar payment required of a new worker

gar-nish-ee \gär-nə-'shē\ *n* (1627): a person who is served with a legal process of garnishment

garnish-ee *vt* -eed; -ee-ing (1846) **1**: to serve with a garnishment **2**: to take (as a debtor's wages) by legal authority

gar-nish-ment \gär-nish-mənt\ *n* (1550) **1**: ORNAMENT, GARNISH **2**: a legal summons or warning concerning the attachment of property to satisfy a debt **3**: a stoppage of a specified sum from wages to satisfy a creditor or a legal obligation (as child support)

gar-ni-ture \gär-ni-čər, -nə-'čūr\ *n* [MF, equipment, alter. of OF *gar-niture*, fr. *garinir*] (1558) **1**: EMBELLISHMENT, TRIMMING **2**: a set of decorative objects (as vases, urns, or clocks)

gar-pike \gär-pik\ *n* (1776): GAR **b**

gar-ret \gär-ət, 'gär-rät\ *n* [ME *garite* watchtower, turret, fr. AF, fr. *garir*] (14c): a room or unfinished part of a house just under the roof

gar-ri-son \gär-rə-sən, 'gär-rə-\ *n* [ME *garisoun* protection, fr. AF *garisun* healing, protection, fr. *garir* to heal, protect, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *werien* to defend — more at WEIR] (15c) **1**: a military post; esp.: a permanent military installation **2**: the troops stationed at a garrison

garrison *vt* **gar-ri-soned**; **gar-ri-son-ing** \-s(ə)-nɪŋ\ (1569) **1**: to station troops in **2** *a*: to assign as a garrison **b**: to occupy with troops **garrison cap** *n* (1944): a visorless folding cap worn as part of a military uniform — compare SERVICE CAP

Gar-ri-son finish \gär-rə-sən-\ *n* [Edward H. "Snapper" *Garrison*, †1930 Am. jockey] (1890): a finish in which the winner comes from behind at the end

garrison house *n* (1676) **1**: a house fortified against attack **2**: BLOCKHOUSE **3**: a house having the second story overhanging the first in the front

garrison state *n* (1937): a state organized to serve primarily its own need for military security; also: a state maintained by military power

gar-ron \gär-rən, 'gär-rən\ *n* [Ir *gearrán* & ScGael *gearran*, gelding] (1540) *Scot & Irish*: a small sturdy workhorse

gar-rote or **gar-rotte** \gär-rät, 'rät; 'gär-rät\ *n* [Sp *garrote*] (1622) **1** *a*: a method of execution by strangulation **b**: the apparatus used

2: an implement (as a wire with a handle at each end) for strangulation

gar-rote or **garrotte** *vt* **gar-rotted** or **gar-rott-ed**; **gar-rott-ing** or **gar-rott-ing** (1851): to strangle with or as if with a garrote — **gar-rot-er** *n*

gar-ru-ll-ty \gär-rü-lä-tē, 'gär-\ *n* (1581): the quality or state of being garrulous

gar-ru-lous \gär-rə-ləs, 'gär-rə- also 'gär-rə-\ *adj* [L *garrulus*, fr. *garrine* to chatter — more at CARE] (ca. 1611) **1**: given to prosy, rambling, or tedious loquacity: pointlessly or annoyingly talkative **2**: WORDY **1** (< speeches) *syn* see TALKATIVE — **gar-ru-lous-ly** *adv* — **gar-ru-lous-ness** *n*

gar-ter \gär-tər\ *n* [ME, fr. AF *garter*, fr. *garet* thigh, shank, of Celt origin; akin to W *gar* shank] (14c) **1** *a*: a band worn to hold up a stocking or sock **b**: a band worn to hold up a shirt sleeve **c**: a strap hanging from a girdle or corset to support a stocking **2** *cap* *a*: the British Order of the Garter; also: the blue velvet garter that is its badge **b**: membership in the order

garter *vt* (15c): to support with or as if with a garter

garter snake *n* (1743): any of a genus (*Thamnophis*) of harmless viviparous American snakes with longitudinal stripes on the back

garth \gärth\ *n* [ME, fr. ON *garth* yard; akin to OHG *gart* enclosure — more at YARD] (14c): a small yard or enclosure

gar-vey \gär-vē\ *n*, *pl* **garveys** [prob. fr. the name *Garvey*] (ca. 1896): a small scow esp. of the New Jersey coast

gas \gas\ *n*, *pl* **gas-es** also **gas-eses** [NL, alter. of L *chaos* space, chaos] (1779) **1**: a fluid (as air) that has neither independent shape nor volume but tends to expand indefinitely **2**

a: a combustible gas or gaseous mixture for fuel or lighting; esp.: NATURAL GAS **b**: a gaseous product of digestion; also: discomfort from this **c**: a gas or gaseous mixture used to produce anesthesia **d**: a substance that can be used to produce a poisonous, asphyxiating, or irritant atmosphere **3**: empty talk: BOMBAST **4**: GASOLINE; also: the accelerator pedal of an automotive vehicle **5**: driving force: ENERGY

6: I was young, and full of ~ — H. L. Mencken) <ran out of ~ in the seventh inning> **6** *slang*: something that gives pleasure: DELIGHT <the party was a ~>

gas *vb* **gassed**; **gas-sing** *vi* (1852) **1**: to talk idly or garrulously **2**: to give off gas **3**: to fill the tank (as of an automobile) with gasoline — usu. used with *up* ~ *vt* **1**: to supply with gas or esp. gasoline (< up the car> **2** *a*: to treat chemically with gas **b**: to poison or otherwise affect adversely with gas **3** *slang*: to please greatly

gas-bag \gas-'bag\ *n* (1827) **1**: a bag for holding gas **2**: an idle or garrulous talker

gas chamber *n* (1933): a chamber in which prisoners are executed by poison gas

gas chromatography *n* (1958): an instrument used to separate a sample into components in gas chromatography

gas chromatography *n* (1952): chromatography in which the sample mixture is vaporized and injected into a stream of carrier gas (as nitrogen or helium) moving through a column containing a stationary phase composed of a liquid or particulate solid and is separated into its component compounds according to their affinity for the stationary phase — **gas chromatographic** *adj*

gas-con \gas-kən\ *n* (14c) **1** *cap* *a*: a native of Gascony **b**: the Romance speech of Gascony **2**: a boastful swaggering person — **Gas-con** *adj*

gas-co-nade \gas-kə-'nād\ *n* [F *gasconnade*, fr. *gasconner* to boast, fr. *gascon* Gascon, boaster] (1709): BRAVADO, BOASTING — **gasconade** *vi* — **gas-con-ad-er** *n*

gas-eous \gä-sē-əs, 'gä-shəs\ *adj* (1799) **1**: having the form of or being gas; also: of or relating to gases **2** *a*: lacking substance or solidity **b**: GASSY **3** <trick phrases and ~ circumlocutions — Edwin Newman> — **gas-eous-ness** *n*

gas-fitter *n* (1849): a worker who installs or repairs gas pipes and appliances

gas gangrene *n* (1914): progressive gangrene marked by impregnation of the dead and dying tissue with gas and caused by one or more toxin-producing clostridia

gas-guz-zler \gas-'gəz-lər, 'gə-zə-\ *n* (1973): a usu. large automobile that gets relatively poor mileage — **gas-guz-zling** \-lɪŋ\ *adj*

gash \gash\ *n* (1548) **1**: a deep long cut in flesh **2**: a deep narrow depression or cut <cut a ~ through the forest> (<a ~ in the hull>)

gash *vb* [alter. of ME *garsen*, fr. AF *garser* to nip, scratch, fr. VL **charissare*, fr. Gk *charassein* to scratch, engrave] *vt* (1566): to make a gash in ~ *vi*: to make a gash: CUT

gash *adj* [origin unknown] (1706) **1** chiefly *Scot*: KNOWING, WITTY **2** chiefly *Scot*: well-dressed: TRIM

gas-hold-er \gas-'hōl-dər\ *n* (1802): a container for gas; esp.: a huge cylindrical tank for storing fuel gas under pressure

gas-house \-'hauz\ *n* (1840): GASWORKS

gas-i-fi-ca-tion \gä-sä-fä-'kā-shən\ *n* (1812): conversion into gas; esp.: conversion of coal into natural gas

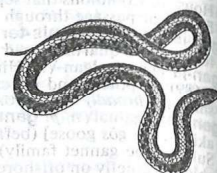
gas-i-fy \gä-sä-'fi\ *vb* -i-fied; -i-fy-ing *vt* (ca. 1828): to convert into gas (< coal> ~ *vi*: to become gaseous — **gas-i-fi-er** \gä-sä-'fi(-ə)r\ *n*)

gas-ket \gas-kət\ *n* [perh. modif. of F *garett*] (ca. 1889): a material (as rubber) or a part (as an O-ring) used to make a joint fluid-tight

gas-kin \gas-kən\ *n* [prob. short for *galligaskins*] (1573) **1** *pl*, *obs*: HOSE, BREECHES **2**: a part of the hind leg of a quadruped between the stifle and the hock — see HORSE illustration

gas-light \gas-'lit, 'lit\ *n* (1808) **1**: light made by burning illuminating gas **2** *a*: a gas flame **b**: a gas lighting fixture

gas-liquid chromatography *n* (1952): gas chromatography in which the stationary phase is a liquid — **gas-liquid chromatographic** *adj*



garter snake

the policy ~) — **for a loop**: into a state of amazement, confusion, or distress (the news threw us *for a loop*)

loop *vt* (1832) **1**: to make or form a loop **2**: to execute a loop in an airplane **3**: to move in loops or in an arc ~ *vi* **1 a**: to make a loop in, on, or about **b**: to fasten with a loop **2**: to join (two courses of loops) in knitting **3**: to connect (electric conductors) so as to complete a loop **4**: to cause to move in an arc

looped *\lūp-t\ adj* (1513) **1**: having, formed in, or characterized by loops (~ fabrics) **2**: DRUNK **la**

loop-er *\lū-pər\ n* (1731) **1**: any of the usu. rather small hairless caterpillars that are mostly larvae of moths (families Geometridae and Noctuidae) and move with a looping motion in which the hind prolegs draw the posterior body toward the front followed by forward extension by the anterior legs — called also *inchworm* **2**: one that loops

loop-hole *\lūp-hōl\ n* [*loop*] (1591) **1 a**: a small opening through which small arms may be fired **b**: a similar opening to admit light and air or to permit observation **2**: a means of escape; *esp*: an ambiguity or omission in the text through which the intent of a statute, contract, or obligation may be evaded

loophole *vt* (1664) **1**: to make loopholes in

loop of Henle *\-hen-lē* [F. G. J. Henle †1885 Ger. pathologist] (1890) **1**: a U-shaped part of the nephron of birds and mammals that lies between and is continuous with the proximal and distal convoluted tubules and that functions in water resorption

loopy *\lū-pē\ adj* **loop-i-er, -est** (1856) **1**: having or characterized by loops **2**: CRAZY, BIZARRE — **loop-i-ly** *\-pə-lē\ adv* — **loop-i-ness** *\-pē-nəs\ n*

loose *\lūs\ adj* **loose-er; loose-est** [ME *lous*, fr. ON *laus*; akin to OHG *lās* loose — more at -LESS] (13c) **1 a**: not rigidly fastened or securely attached **b** (1): having worked partly free from attachments (a ~ tooth) (2): having relative freedom of movement **c**: produced freely and accompanied by raising of mucus (a ~ cough) **d**: not tightly fitting **2 a**: free from a state of confinement, restraint, or obligation (a lion ~ in the streets) (spend ~ funds wisely) **b**: not brought together in a bundle, container, or binding **c archaic**: DISCONNECTED, DETACHED **3 a**: not dense, close, or compact in structure or arrangement **b**: not solid; WATERY (~ stools) **4 a**: lacking in restraint or power of restraint (a ~ tongue) **b**: lacking moral restraint; UNCHASTE **c**: OVERACTIVE; *specif*: marked by frequent voiding esp. of watery stools (~ bowels) **5 a**: not tightly drawn or stretched; SLACK **b**: being flexible or relaxed (stay ~) **6 a**: lacking in precision, exactness, or care (~ brushwork) (~ usage) **b**: permitting freedom of interpretation **7**: not in the possession of either of two competing teams (a ~ ball) (a ~ puck) — **loose-ly** *adv* — **loose-ness** *n*

loose *vb* **loosed; loos-ing** *vt* (13c) **1 a**: to let loose; RELEASE **b**: to free from restraint **2**: to make loose; UNTIE (~ a knot) **3**: to cast loose; DETACH **4**: to let fly; DISCHARGE **5**: to make less rigid, tight, or strict; RELAX ~ *vi*: to let fly a missile (as an arrow): FIRE

loose *adv* (15c): in a loose manner; LOOSELY

loose box *n* (1849) *Brit*: BOX STALL

loose cannon *n* (1973): a dangerously uncontrollable person or thing

loose end *n* (1546) **1**: something left hanging loose **2**: a fragment of unfinished business — usu. used in pl. (tying up loose ends)

loose-joint-ed *\lūs-jōin-təd\ adj* (1859) **1**: having joints apparently not closely articulated **2**: characterized by unusually free movements — **loose-joint-ed-ness** *n*

loose-leaf *\lūs-lēf\ adj* (1902) **1**: having leaves secured in book form in a cover whose spine may be opened for adding, arranging, or removing leaves (~ notebook) **2**: of, relating to, or used with a loose-leaf binding (~ paper)

loos-en *\lūs-sən\ vb* **loos-ened; loos-en-ing** *\lūs-nīŋ, \lūs-sən-īŋ\ vt* (14c) **1**: to release from restraint **2**: to make looser (~ed his tie) (~ a screw) **3**: to relieve (the bowels) of constipation **4**: to cause or permit to become less strict — often used with *up* (~ed the rules) ~ *vi*: to become loose or looser

loosen up *vi* (1922): to become less tense; RELAX

loose sentence *n* (ca. 1890): a sentence in which the principal clause comes first and subordinate modifiers or trailing elements follow

loose smut *n* (1890): a smut disease of grains in which the entire head is transformed into a dusty mass of spores

loose-strife *\lūs(s)-strīf\ n* [intended as trans. of Gk *lysismacheios* loosestrife (as if fr. *lysis* act of loosening + *machesthai* to fight) — more at LYSIS] (1548) **1**: any of a genus (*Lysimachia*) of plants of the primrose family with leafy stems and usu. yellow or white flowers **2**: any of a genus (*Lythrum*, family Lythraceae, the loosestrife family) of herbs having entire leaves and including some with showy spikes of purple flowers; *esp*: PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

loos-ey-goos-ey *\lūs-sē-gūs-sē\ adj* (1964): notably loose or relaxed; not tense (a ~ attitude)

loot *\lūt\ n* [Hindi & Urdu *lūt*; akin to Skt *lunṭati* he plunders] (ca. 1788) **1**: goods usu. of considerable value taken in war: SPOILS **2**: something held to resemble goods of value seized in war: as **a**: something appropriated illegally often by force or violence **b**: illicit gains by public officials **c**: MONEY **3**: the action of looting *syn* see SPOIL

loot *vt* (1845) **1 a**: to plunder or sack in war **b**: to rob esp. on a large scale and usu. by violence or corruption **2**: to seize and carry away by force esp. in war ~ *vi*: to engage in robbing or plundering esp. in war — **loot-er** *n*

lop *\löp\ n* [ME *loppe*] (14c): material cut away from a tree; *esp*: parts discarded in lumbering

lop *vt* **lopped; lop-ping** (1519) **1 a** (1): to cut off branches or twigs from (2): to sever from a woody plant **b** (1) *archaic*: to cut off the head or limbs of (2): to cut from a person **2 a**: to remove superfluous parts from **b**: to eliminate as unnecessary or undesirable — usu. used with *off*

lop *vi* **lopped; lop-ping** [perh. imit.] (1578): to hang downward

lope *\löp\ n* [ME *lope*, *lope* leap, prob. fr. ON *hlaup*; akin to OE *hlæpan* to leap — more at LEAP] (1809) **1**: an easy natural gait of a horse resembling a canter **2**: an easy usu. bounding gait capable of being sustained for a long time

lope *vi* **loped; lop-ing** (ca. 1825): to move or ride at a lope — **loper** *n*

lop-eared *\löp-ird\ adj* (1687): having ears that droop

loph-o-phore *\lā-fə-fōr\ n* [Gk *lophos* crest + E -*phore*] (1850): a circular or horseshoe-shaped organ about the mouth esp. of a brachiopod or bryozoan that bears tentacles and functions esp. in food-getting

lop-per *\lā-pər\ n* (1953): pruning shears with long handles — usu. used in pl.

lop-sid-ed *\löp-sī-dəd\ adj* (1711) **1**: leaning to one side **2**: lacking in balance, symmetry, or proportion: disproportionately heavy on one side (a ~ vote of 99-1) — **lop-sid-ed-ly** *adv* — **lop-sid-ed-ness** *n*

loq *abbr* [L *loquitur*] he speaks; she speaks

lo-quac-i-ous *\lō-ˈkwā-shəs\ adj* [L *loquac-*, *loquax*, fr. *loqui* to speak] (1663) **1**: full of excessive talk: WORDY **2**: given to fluent or excessive talk: GARRULOUS *syn* see TALKATIVE — **lo-quac-i-ous-ly** *adv* — **lo-quac-i-ous-ness** *n*

lo-quac-i-ty *\lō-ˈkwā-sə-tē\ n* (13c): the quality or state of being very talkative

lo-quat *\lō-ˈkwāt\ n* [Chin (Guangdong) *lāuh-gwāt*] (1820): an Asian evergreen tree (*Eriobotrya japonica*) of the rose family often cultivated for its fruit; also: its small yellow edible fruit used esp. for preserves

lo-ran *\lör-an\ n* [long-range navigation] (1932): a system of long-range navigation in which pulsed signals sent out by two pairs of radio stations are used to determine the location of a ship or airplane

lor-az-e-pam *\lör-ˈa-zə-pam\ n* [prob. fr. *chlor-* + *-azepam* (as in *diazepam*)] (1969): benzodiazepine C₁₅H₁₀Cl₂N₂O₂ used esp. to relieve anxiety

lord *\lörd\ n* [ME *loverd*, *lord*, fr. OE *hlāford*, fr. *hlāf* loaf + *weard* keeper — more at LOAF, WARD] (bef. 12c) **1**: one having power and authority over others: **a**: a ruler by hereditary right or preeminence to whom service and obedience are due **b**: one of whom a fee or estate is held in feudal tenure **c**: an owner of land or other real property **d** *obs*: the male head of a household **e**: HUSBAND **f**: one that has achieved mastery or that exercises leadership or great power in some area (a drug ~) **2 cap**: **a**: GOD **1 b**: JESUS **3**: a man of rank or high position: as **a**: a feudal tenant whose right or title comes directly from the king **b**: a British nobleman: as (1): BARON **2a** (2): a hereditary peer of the rank of marquis, earl, or viscount (3): the son of a duke or a marquess or the eldest son of an earl (4): a bishop of the Church of England **c** *pl*, *cap*: HOUSE OF LORDS **4** — used as a British title: as — used as part of an official title (Lord Advocate) (Lord Mayor) **b** — used informally in place of the full title for a marquess, earl, or viscount **c** — used for a baron **d** — used by courtesy before the name and surname of a younger son of a duke or a marquess **5**: a person chosen to preside over a festival

lord *vi* (14c): to act like a lord; *esp*: to put on airs — usu. used with *it* (~s it over his friends)

lord chancellor *n*, *pl* **lords chancellor** (15c): a British officer of state who presides over the House of Lords in both its legislative and judicial capacities, serves as the head of the British judiciary, and is usu. a leading member of the cabinet

lord-ing *\lör-dīŋ\ n* (13c) **1** *archaic*: LORD **2** *obs*: LORDLING

lord-ling *\lörd-līŋ\ n* (13c): a little or insignificant lord

lord-ly *\lör-lī\ adj* **lord-li-er; -est** (bef. 12c) **1 a**: of, relating to, or having the characteristics of a lord: DIGNIFIED **b**: GRAND, NOBLE **2**: exhibiting the pride and assurance associated with one of the highest birth or rank *syn* see PROUD — **lord-li-ness** *n* — **lordly** *adv*

lord of misrule (15c): a master of Christmas revels in England esp. in the 15th and 16th centuries

lor-do-sis *\lör-ˈdō-səs\ n*, *pl* **-do-ses** *\-ˈdō-sēz* [NL, fr. Gk *lordōsis*, fr. *lordos* curving forward; akin to OE *belyrtan* to deceive] (1704) **1**: abnormally increased inward curvature of the lower region of the spine resulting in a concave back as viewed from the side — compare KYPHOSIS **2**: a mating posture of some sexually receptive female mammals (as rats) in which the head and rump are raised and the back is arched downward — **lor-dot-ic** *\-ˈdā-tik\ adj*

Lord Protector of the Commonwealth (ca. 1653): PROTECTOR **2b**

Lord's day *n*, often *cap* *D* (12c): SUNDAY

lord-ship *\lörd-shīp\ n* (bef. 12c) **1 a**: the rank or dignity of a lord — used as a title **b**: the authority or power of a lord: DOMINION **2**: the territory under the jurisdiction of a lord: SEIGNIORY

Lord's Prayer *n* (ca. 1549): the prayer with variant versions in Matthew and Luke that according to the Lucan account Christ taught his disciples

Lord's Supper *n* (14c): COMMUNION **2a**

Lord's table *n*, often *cap* *T* (1526): ALTAR **2**

Lordy *\lör-dē\ interj* [*lord* (God) + -y] (1853) — used to express surprise or strength of feeling

lore *\lör\ n* [ME, fr. OE *lār*; akin to OHG *lāra* doctrine, OE *leornian* to learn] (bef. 12c) **1** *archaic*: something that is taught: LESSON **2**: something that is learned: **a**: knowledge gained through study or experience **b**: traditional knowledge or belief **3**: a particular body of knowledge or tradition

lore *n* [NL *lorum*, fr. L, *thong*, rein; akin to Gk *eulēra* reins] (1828): the space between the eye and bill in a bird or the corresponding region in a reptile or fish — **lo-re-al** *\lör-ē-əl\ adj*

Lo-re-lei *\lör-ə-ˈlī\ n* [G] (1865): a siren of Germanic legend whose singing lures Rhine River boatmen to destruction on a reef

lor-gnette *\lörn-ˈyēt\ n* [F, fr. *lorgner* to take a sidelong look at, fr. MF, fr. *lorgne* squinting] (1803): a pair of eyeglasses or opera glasses with a handle

lor-gnon *\lörn-ˈyōn\ n* [F, fr. *lorgner*] (1846): LORNETTE



loquat