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2012 Dell Mass Market Edition

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Derived from the hardcover edition of the *American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition*, originally published in the United States by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt in November 2011.

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ISBN 978-0-553-58322-9

Cover design: Stoltze Design
Cover photograph: Getty Images

Printed in the United States of America

www.bantamdell.com

19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10

Dell mass market edition: July 2012

ing to cause damage, injury, or death. 2. Caused by unexpected force or injury rather than by natural causes: a *violent death*. 3. Very forceful: A *violent squall*. 4. Having or showing great emotional force. 5. Intense; extreme. [*< Lat. violentus < vis, force.*] —**vi'o-lent-ly** *adv.*

vi-o-let (vi'ə-lit) ► *n.* 1a. A low-growing herb having spurred irregular flowers that are characteristically purplish-blue but sometimes yellow or white. b. Any of several similar plants. 2. The hue of the short-wave end of the visible spectrum; reddish blue. [*< Lat. viola.*]

vi-o-lin (vi'ə-lin') ► *n.* A small stringed instrument held horizontally at the shoulder and played with a bow, having an unfretted fingerboard and four strings tuned at intervals of a fifth. [Ital. *violino*.] —**vi'o-lin'ist** *n.*

vi-o-lon-cel-lo (vē'ə-lən-chēl'ō, vi'ə-) ► *n., pl. -los* A cello. [Ital.]

VIP (vē'l-pē') ► *n. Informal* A very important person.

vi-per (vi'pər) ► *n.* 1. Any of several venomous snakes having a single pair of long hollow fangs. 2. A harmless but supposedly venomous snake. 3. A malicious or treacherous person. [*< Lat. vipera, snake < viviparus, viviparous.*] —**vi'perous** *adj.*

vi-ra-go (və-rā'gō, -rā'-, vir'ə-gō') ► *n., pl. -goes or -gos* A noisy, domineering woman. [Lat. *virago < vir, man.*]

vi-ral (vi'rəl) ► *adj.* 1. Of or caused by a virus. 2. Of or relating to the propagation of ideas or information by means of social networks rather than mass media. —**vi'ral-ly** *adv.*

vir-e-o (vir'ē-ō') ► *n., pl. -os* Any of various small songbirds having grayish or greenish plumage. [Lat. *vireo*, a kind of bird.]

Vir-gil also **Ver-gil** (vir'jəl) 70–19 B.C. Roman poet. —**Vir-gil'i-an** (-jil'ē-ən) *adj.*

vir-gin (vir'jin) ► *n.* 1. A person who has not experienced sexual intercourse. 2. A female virgin. Used chiefly in historical contexts. 3. Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus. ► *adj.* 1. Of or being a virgin; chaste. 2. In a pure or natural state. [*< Lat. virgō, virgin-.*] —**vir-gin'i-ty** *n.*

vir-gin-al (vir'jə-nəl) ► *adj.* 1. Of or befitting a virgin. 2. Untouched or unsullied; fresh.

vir-gin-al (vir'jə-nəl) ► *n.* A small legless harp-sichord popular in the 16th and 17th cent. [*< VIRGIN.*]

Vir-gin-ia (vər-jin'ya) A state of the E US on Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic. Cap. Richmond. —**Vir-gin'ian** *adj. & n.*

Virginia creeper ► *n.* A North American climbing vine having compound leaves with five leaflets and bluish-black berries.

Virginia reel ► *n.* An American country-dance in which couples perform various steps together to the instructions of a caller.

Virgin Islands 1. A group of islands of the NE West Indies E of Puerto Rico; divided politically into the **British Virgin Islands** to the NE and the **Virgin Islands of the United States** to the SW. 2. Officially **Virgin Islands of the United States** A US territory constituting the SW group of the Virgin Is. Cap. Charlotte Amalie.

Vir-go (vir'gō) ► *n.* 1. A constellation in the region of the celestial equator between Leo and Libra. 2. The 6th sign of the zodiac.

vir-gule (vir'gyool) ► *n.* See **slash** (sense 2). [*< Llat. virgula.*]

vir-ile (vir'əl, -il') ► *adj.* 1. Of or having the characteristics of an adult male, esp. the ability to have sexual intercourse. 2. Robustly manly. 3. Energetic or forceful. [*< Lat. vir, man.*] —**vir-il'i-ty** (və-ril'i-tē) *n.*

vi-rol-o-gy (vi-rōl'ə-jē) ► *n.* The study of viruses and viral diseases. —**vi-rol'o-gist** *n.*

virtu-al (vur'chō-əl) ► *adj.* 1. Existing in essence or effect though not in actual fact or form: the *virtual extinction of the buffalo*. 2. Created, simulated, or carried on by means of a computer or computer network: *virtual conversations in a chatroom*. [*< Lat. virtūs, excellence; see VIRTUE.*] —**vir'tu-al'i-ty** (-əl'i-tē) *n.*

virtu-ally (vur'chō-ə-lē) ► *adv.* In effect: The city was *virtually* paralyzed by the transit strike.

virtual reality ► *n.* A computer simulation of a real or imaginary system in real time.

vir-tue (vir'chōō) ► *n.* 1a. Moral excellence and righteousness; goodness. b. An example or kind of moral excellence. 2. Archaic Chastity, esp. in a woman. 3. A particularly efficacious or beneficial quality; advantage. 4. Effective force or power. —*idiom:* by virtue of On the basis of. [*< Lat. virtūs < vir, man.*]

vir-tu-osi-ty (vur'chōō-ōs'i-tē) ► *n., pl. -ties* The technical skill or style of a virtuoso.

vir-tu-o-so (vur'chōō-ō'sō, -zō) ► *n., pl. -sos or -si* (-sē) 1. A musician with masterly ability, technique, or style. 2. A person with masterly skill or technique in any field, esp. the arts. [Ital.] —**vir'tu-o'sic** *adj.*

vir-tu-ous (vur'chōō-əs) ► *adj.* 1. Having or showing virtue, esp. moral excellence. 2. Archaic Chaste. —**vir'tu-ous-ly** *adv.*

vir-u-lent (vir'ya-lənt, vir'ə-) ► *adj.* 1. Causing or promoting the rapid onset of severe illness, as an infection or toxin. 2. Extremely hostile or malicious. [*< Lat. virulentus.*] —**vir'u-lence** *n.* —**vir'u-lent-ly** *adv.*

vi-rus (vi'rəs) ► *n.* 1a. Any of various submicroscopic agents that infect living organisms, often causing disease, and that consist of a single or double strand of RNA or DNA surrounded by a protein coat. b. A disease caused by a virus. 2. *Comp.* A self-replicating program that copies itself into other programs on a computer, usu. having negative effects. [Lat. *virus, poison.*]

vi-sa (vē'zə) ► *n.* An official authorization appended to a passport, permitting entry into and travel within a particular country or region. [*< Lat. visa < p.part. of videre, see.*]

vis-age (viz'ij) ► *n.* 1. The face or facial expression of a person. 2. Appearance; aspect. [*< OFr. < Lat. visus, appearance < videre, see.*]

vis-à-vis (vē'zə-vē') ► *prep.* 1. Compared with. 2. In relation to. ► *adv.* Face to face. ► *n., pl. vis-à-vis* (-vēz', -vē') One opposite or corresponding to another; counterpart. [Fr., face to face.]

Vi-sa-yan Islands (vi-si'ən) An island group of the central Philippines in and around the Visayan Sea between Luzon and Mindanao. —**Vi-sa'yan** *adj. & n.*

vis-cer-a (vis'ər-ə) ► *pl.n.* The internal body organs, esp. those contained within the abdomen and thorax. [*< Lat. viscus, visc-.*]

vis-cer-al (vis'ər-əl) ► *adj.* 1. Of, situated in, or affecting the viscera. 2. Arising from impulse or sudden emotion rather than from thought

- ing to cause damage, injury, or death. 2. Caused by unexpected force or injury rather than by natural causes: *a violent death*. 3. Very forceful: *A violent squall*. 4. Having or showing great emotional force. 5. Intense; extreme. [*< Lat. violentus < vis, force.*] —**vi'o-lent-ly** *adv.*
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- VIP** (vē'i-pē') ► *n. Informal* A very important person.
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