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# Dictionary

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so as to achieve political independence.

□ **separatism** *noun*

**separator** *noun* a machine that separates things (e.g. cream from milk).

**Sephardi** (si-far-di) *noun* (plural **Sephardim**) a Jew of Spanish or Portuguese descent, as distinct from an Ashkenazi. □ **Sephardic** *adjective*

**sepia** (seep-iä) *noun* **1** brown colouring matter originally made from the black fluid of the cuttlefish, used in inks and paints. **2** rich reddish-brown colour. • *adjective* of sepia colour.

**sepoi** (see-poi) *noun* (old use) a native Indian soldier under British or other European discipline.

**sepsis** *noun* a septic condition.

**Sept.** *abbreviation* September.

**September** the ninth month of the year.

**septet** *noun* a group of seven instruments or voices; a musical composition for these.

**septic** *adjective* infected with harmful micro-organisms that cause pus to form. □ **septic tank** a tank into which sewage is conveyed and in which it remains until the activity of bacteria makes it liquid enough to drain away.

**septicaemia** (septi-seem-iä) *noun* (Amer. **septicemia**) blood-poisoning.

**septuagenarian** (sep-tew-ä-jin-air-iän) *noun* a person in his or her seventies.

**Septuagesima** (sep-tew-ä-jess-imä) *noun* the Sunday before Sexagesima.

**Septuagint** (sep-tew-ä-jint) *noun* the Greek version of the Old Testament.

**septum** *noun* (plural **septa**) a partition between two cavities, e.g. that in the nose between the nostrils.

**septuple** (sep-tew-pül) *adjective* sevenfold. • *noun* a sevenfold quantity.

**sepulchral** (sip-ul-kräl) *adjective* **1** of a tomb; *sepulchral monument*. **2** looking or sounding dismal, funereal; a *sepulchral voice*.

**sepulchre** (sep-ul-ker) *noun* (Amer. **sepulcher**) a tomb.

**sepulture** (sep-ul-cher) *noun* burying, placing in a grave.

**sequel** *noun* **1** what follows or arises out of an earlier event. **2** a novel or film etc. that continues the story of an earlier one.

**sequence** *noun* **1** the following of one thing after another in an orderly or continuous way. **2** a series without gaps, a set of things that belong next to each other in a particular order. **3** a section dealing with one scene or topic in a film.

**sequencer** *noun* a programmable electronic device for storing sequences of musical notes and transmitting them to an electronic musical instrument. □ **sequencing** *noun*

**sequential** (si-kwen-shäl) *adjective*

**1** forming a sequence, following in succession. **2** occurring as a result. □ **sequentially** *adverb*

**sequester** (si-kwest-er) *verb* **1** seclude. **2** confiscate.

**sequesterate** (see-kwis-trayt or si-kwest-trayt) *verb* **1** confiscate. **2** take temporary possession of (a debtor's estate etc.). □ **sequestration** *noun*, **sequesterator** *noun*

**sequin** (see-kwin) *noun* a circular spangle ornamenting clothing or other material. □ **sequinned** *adjective*

**sequoia** (si-kwoi-ä) *noun* a coniferous tree of California, growing to a great height.

**seraglio** (si-rah-l-yoh) *noun* (plural **seraglios**) **1** a harem. **2** (hist.) a Turkish palace.

**seraph** *noun* (plural **seraphim** or **seraphs**) a member of the highest order of angels in ancient Christian belief. □ **seraphic** *adjective*

**Serb** *noun* a native or inhabitant of Serbia. • *adjective* Serbian.

**Serbia** a republic in SE Europe, formerly part of Yugoslavia.

**Serbian** *noun* **1** a Serb. **2** the dialect of the Serbs. • *adjective* of Serbia or its people or language.

**Serbo-Croat** (ser-boh-kroh-at) *noun* the language of the Serbs and Croats.

**serenade** *noun* **1** a song or tune performed at night, especially beneath a lover's window. **2** an orchestral suite for a small ensemble. • *verb* sing or play a serenade to.

**serendipity** (se-rën-dip-iti) *noun* the making of pleasant discoveries by accident; the knack of doing this. □ **serendipitous** *adjective*

**serene** *adjective* **1** calm and cheerful. **2** the title used in speaking of or to members of certain European royal families; *His or Her or Your Serene Highness*. □ **serenely** *adverb*, **serenity** (ser-en-iti) *noun*

**serf** *noun* **1** a farm labourer who was forced to work for his landowner in the Middle Ages. **2** an oppressed labourer. □ **serfdom** *noun*

**serge** *noun* a strong twilled worsted fabric used for making clothes.

**sergeant** *noun* **1** a non-commissioned army officer ranking above corporal. **2** a police officer ranking just below inspector. □ (**regimental**) **sergeant major** a warrant officer assisting the adjutant of a regiment or battalion.

**serial** *noun* a story presented in a series of instalments. • *adjective* of or forming a series. □ **serial composition** serialism. **serial killer** a person who murders continually with no apparent motive. **serial number** a number that identifies one item in a series of things. □ **serially** *adverb*