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physiological psychology *n* (1888) : a branch of psychology that deals with the effects of normal and pathological physiological processes on mental life — called also *psychophysiology*

physiological saline *n* (1896) : a solution of a salt or salts that is essentially isotonic with tissue fluids or blood

phys-i-ol-o-gy \ˌfi-zē-ˈä-lə-jē\ *n* [L *physiologia* natural science, fr. Gk, fr. *physi-* + *-logia* -logy] (1597) **1** : a branch of biology that deals with the functions and activities of life or of living matter (as organs, tissues, or cells) and of the physical and chemical phenomena involved — compare ANATOMY **2** : the organic processes and phenomena of an organism or any of its parts or of a particular bodily process — **phys-i-ol-o-gist** \-jist\ *n*

phys-io-pa-thol-o-gy \ˈfi-zē-ō-pə-ˈthä-lə-jē, -pa-\ *n* (ca. 1889) : a branch of biology or medicine that combines physiology and pathology esp. in the study of altered bodily function in disease — **phys-io-path-o-log-ic** \-ˌpa-thə-ˈlä-jik\ *or* **phys-io-path-o-log-i-cal** \-ji-kəl\ *adj*

phys-io-ther-a-py \ˌfi-zē-ō-ˈther-ə-pē\ *n* [NL *physiotherapia*, fr. *physi-* + *therapia* therapy] (ca. 1903) : PHYSICAL THERAPY — **phys-io-ther-a-pist** \-pist\ *n*

phy-sique \fə-ˈzēk\ *n* [F, fr. *physique* physical, bodily, fr. L *physicus* of nature, fr. Gk *physikos*] (1813) : the form or structure of a person's body : bodily makeup

phy-so-stig-mine \ˌfī-sə-ˈstig-ˌmēn\ *n* [ISV, fr. NL *Physostigma*, genus of vines that bear the Calabar bean] (1864) : a crystalline tasteless alkaloid $C_{15}H_{21}N_3O_2$ from the Calabar bean that is used in medicine esp. in the form of its salicylate for its anticholinesterase activity

phyt- *or* **phyto-** *comb form* [L, fr. Gk, fr. *phyton*, fr. *phyein* to bring forth — more at BE] : plant ⟨*phyto*phagous⟩

phy-tane \ˈfī-ˌtān\ *n* (1907) : an isoprenoid hydrocarbon $C_{20}H_{42}$ that is found esp. associated with fossilized plant remains from the Precambrian and later eras

-phyte *n comb form* [ISV, fr. Gk *phyton* plant] : plant having a (specified) characteristic or habitat ⟨*xerophyte*⟩

-phytic *adj comb form* [ISV, fr. Gk *phyton* plant] : like a plant ⟨*holophytic*⟩

phy-to-alex-in \ˌfī-tō-ə-ˈlek-sən\ *n* [ISV *phyt-* + *alexin* substance combating infection, fr. Gk *alexein* to ward off, protect; akin to Skt *rakṣati* the protects] (1949) : a chemical substance produced by a plant to combat infection by a pathogen (as a fungus)

phy-to-chem-i-cal \-ˈke-mi-kəl\ *adj* (ca. 1858) : of, relating to, or being phytochemistry — **phy-to-chem-i-cal-ly** \-mi-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

phy-to-chem-is-try \-ˈke-mə-strē\ *n* (1837) : the chemistry of plants, plant processes, and plant products — **phy-to-chem-ist** \-ˈke-mist\ *n*

phy-to-chrome \ˈfī-tə-ˌkrōm\ *n* (ca. 1893) : a chromoprotein that is present in traces in many plants and that plays a significant role in initiating floral and developmental processes when activated by red or near-infrared radiation

phy-to-fla-gel-late \ˌfī-tō-ˈfla-jə-lət, -ˌlāt; -flə-ˈje-\ *n* (1935) : any of various organisms (as dinoflagellates) that are considered a subclass (Phytomastigophora syn. Phytomastigina) usu. of algae by botanists and of protozoans by zoologists and that have many characteristics in common with typical algae

phy-to-ge-og-ra-phy \ˌfī-tō-jē-ˈä-grə-fē\ *n* [ISV] (1847) : the biogeography of plants — **phy-to-ge-og-ra-pher** \-fər\ *n* — **phy-to-geograph-i-cal** \-jē-ə-ˈgra-fi-kəl\ *or* **phy-to-geo-graph-ic** \-fik\ *adj* — **phy-to-geo-graph-i-cal-ly** \-fi-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

phy-to-path-o-gen \ˌfī-tō-ˈpa-thə-jən\ *n* (ca. 1930) : an organism parasitic on a plant host — **phy-to-path-o-gen-ic** \-ˌpa-thə-ˈje-nik\ *adj*

phy-to-pa-thol-o-gy \-pə-ˈthä-lə-jē, -pa-\ *n* [ISV] (ca. 1859) : plant pathology — **phy-to-path-o-log-i-cal** \-ˌpa-thə-ˈlä-ji-kəl\ *adj*

phy-toph-a-gous \fī-ˈtä-fə-gəs\ *adj* (1826) : feeding on plants ⟨a ~ insect⟩

phy-to-plank-ter \ˌfī-tō-ˈplaŋ(k)-tər\ *n* (1944) : a planktonic plant

phy-to-plank-ton \-ˈplaŋ(k)-tən, -ˌtän\ *n* [ISV] (1897) : planktonic plant life — **phy-to-plank-ton-ic** \-plaŋ(k)-ˈtä-nik\ *adj*

phy-to-so-ci-ol-o-gy \-sō-sē-ˈä-lə-jē, -shē-\ *n* (ca. 1928) : a branch of ecology concerned esp. with the structure, composition, and interrelationships of plant communities — **phy-to-so-cio-log-i-cal** \-sē-ə-ˈlä-ji-kəl\ *adj*

phy-tos-ter-ol \fī-ˈtäs-tə-ˌrȯl, -ˌrōl\ *n* [ISV] (1898) : any of various sterols derived from plants — compare ZOOSTEROL

phy-to-tox-ic \ˌfī-tə-ˈtäk-sik\ *adj* (1926) : poisonous to plants — **phy-to-tox-ic-i-ty** \-ˌtäk-ˈsi-sə-tē\ *n*

¹pi *also* **pie** \ˈpī\ *n, pl* **pies** [origin unknown] (ca. 1659) **1** : type that is spilled or mixed **2** : a pi character or matrix

²pi *also* **pie** *vb* **pied; pi-ing** *or* **pie-ing** *vt* (1870) : to spill or throw (type or type matter) into disorder ~ *vi* : to become pied

³pi *adj* (ca. 1940) **1** : not intended to appear in final printing ⟨~ lines⟩ **2** : capable of being inserted only by hand ⟨~ characters⟩

⁴pi *n, pl* **pis** \ˈpīz\ [MGk, fr. Gk *pei*, of Sem origin; akin to Heb *pē* pe] (1823) **1** : the 16th letter of the Greek alphabet — see ALPHABET table **2 a** : the symbol *π* denoting the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter **b** : the ratio itself : a transcendental number having a value to eight decimal places of 3.14159265

pi-al \ˈpī-əl, ˈpē-\ *adj* (1889) : of or relating to the pia mater

pia ma-ter \ˈpī-ə-ˌmā-tər, ˈpē-ə-ˌmä-\ *n* [ME, fr. ML, fr. L, tender mother] (14c) : the thin vascular membrane that invests the brain and spinal cord internal to the arachnoid and dura mater

pi-a-nism \ˈpē-ə-ˌni-zəm\ *n* (1844) **1** : the art or technique of piano playing **2** : the composition or adaptation of music for the piano

¹pi-a-nis-si-mo \ˌpē-ə-ˈni-sə-ˌmō\ *adv or adj* [It, fr. *piano* softly] (1724) : very softly — used as a direction in music

²pianissimo *n, pl* **-mi** \-(ˌ)mē\ *or* **-mos** (1883) : a passage played, sung, or spoken very softly

pi-a-nist \pē-ˈa-nist, ˈpē-ə-\ *n* (ca. 1828) : one who plays the piano; *esp* : a skilled or professional performer on the piano

pi-a-nis-tic \ˌpē-ə-ˈnis-tik\ *adj* (1881) **1** : of, relating to, or characteristic of the piano **2** : skilled in or well adapted to piano playing — **pi-a-nis-ti-cal-ly** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ *adv*

¹pi-a-no \pē-ˈä-(ˌ)nō\ *adv or adj* [It, fr. LL *planus* smooth, fr. L, level — more at FLOOR] (1683) : at a soft volume : SOFT — used as a direction in music

²pi-ano \pē-ˈa-(ˌ)nō *also* -ˈä-\ *n, pl* **pianos** [It, short for *pianoforte*, fr. *gravicembalo col piano e forte*, lit., harpsichord with soft and loud; fr. the fact that its tones could be varied in loudness] (1803) : a musical instrument having steel wire strings that sound when struck by felt-covered hammers operated from a keyboard

piano accordion *n* (1860) : an accordion with a keyboard for the right hand resembling and corresponding to the middle register of a piano keyboard

pi-ano-forte \pē-ˈa-nə-ˌfȯrt, -ˈä-, -ˌfȯrt, -ˌfȯr-tē, -ˌa-nə-ˈfȯr-tē, -ä-\ *n* [It] (1767) **1** : FORTEPIANO **2** : PIANO

piano hinge *n* (1926) : a hinge that has a thin pin joint and extends along the full length of the part to be moved

pi-as-sa-va \pē-ə-ˈsä-və\ *n* [Pg *piassaba*, fr. Tupi *piasawa*] (1835) : any of several stiff coarse fibers obtained from palms and used esp. in cordage or brushes **2** : a palm yielding piassava; *esp* : either of two Brazilian palms (*Attalia funifera* and *Leopoldinia piassaba*)

pi-as-tre *also* **pi-as-ter** \pē-ˈas-tər, -ˈäs-\ *n* [F *piastre*, fr. It *piastra* thin metal plate, coin, fr. L *emplastra*, *emplastrum* plaster] (1592) **1** : PIECE OF EIGHT **2** — see *pound* at MONEY table

pi-az-za \pē-ˈa-zə, -ˈä-, *1 is usu* -ˈat-sə, -ˈät-\ *n, pl* **piazzas** *or* **pi-az-ze** \-ˈat-(ˌ)sā, -ˈät-\ [It, fr. L *platea* broad street — more at PLACE] (1562) **1** *pl piazze* : an open square esp. in an Italian town **2 a** : an arcade and roofed gallery **b** *dial* : VERANDA, PORCH

pi-broch \ˈpē-ˌbräk, -ˌbräk\ *n* [ScGael *piobaireachd* pipe music] (1719) : a set of martial or mournful variations for the Scottish Highland bagpipe

¹pic \ˈpik\ *n, pl* **pics** *or* **pix** \ˈpiks\ [short for *picture*] (1884) **1** : PHOTOGRAPH **2** : MOTION PICTURE

²pic \ˈpik, ˈpēk\ *n* [Sp *pica*, fr. *picar* to prick] (1926) : the picador's lance

¹pi-ca \ˈpī-kə\ *n* [NL, fr. L, magpie — more at PIE] (1563) : an abnormal desire to eat substances (as chalk or ashes) not normally eaten

²pica *n* [prob. fr. ML, collection of church rules] (1588) **1** : 12-point type **2** : a unit of about ⅙ inch used in measuring typographic material **3** : a typewriter type providing 10 characters to the linear inch and six lines to the vertical inch

pic-a-dor \ˈpik-ə-ˌdȯr, -ˌpi-kə-\ *n, pl* **picadors** \-ˌdȯrz, -ˈdȯrz\ *or* **picadores** \pi-kə-ˈdȯr-ēz, -ˈdȯr-\ [Sp, fr. *picar* to prick, fr. (assumed) VL *piccare* — more at PIKE] (1797) : a horseman in a bullfight who pikes the bull with a lance to weaken its neck and shoulder muscles

pi-ca-ra \ˈpē-kä-ˌrä\ *n* [Sp *picara*, fem. of *picaro*] (ca. 1930) : a woman who is a rogue

¹pi-ca-resque \ˌpi-kə-ˈresk, ˌpē-\ *adj* [Sp *picaresco*, fr. *picaro*] (1810) : of or relating to rogues or rascals; *also* : of, relating to, suggesting, or being a type of fiction dealing with the episodic adventures of a roguish protagonist ⟨a ~ novel⟩

²picaresque *n* (1895) : one that is picaresque

pi-ca-ro \ˈpē-kä-rō\ *n, pl* **-ros** [Sp *picaro*] (1623) : ROGUE, BOHEMIAN

¹pic-a-roon *or* **pick-a-roon** \ˌpi-kə-ˈrün\ *n* [Sp *picarón*, aug. of *picaro*] (1624) **1** : PIRATE **2** : PICARO

²picaroon *vi* (1675) : to act as a pirate

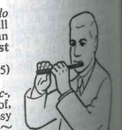
¹pic-a-yune \ˌpi-kē-ˈyün\ *n* [Prov *picaioun*, a small coin, fr. *picar* to jingle, of imit. origin] (1804) **1 a** : a Spanish half money, fr. *pica* to jingle, of imit. origin] (1804) **1 a** : a Spanish half money, fr. *pica* to jingle, of imit. origin] (1804) **1 a** : a Spanish half real piece formerly current in the South **b** : HALF DIME **2** : something trivial

²picayune *adj* (1836) : of little value : PALTRY; *also* : PETTY, SMALL-MINDED — **pic-a-yun-ish** \-ˈyü-nish\ *adj*

pic-ca-lil-li \ˌpi-kə-ˈli-lē\ *n* [prob. alter. of *pickle*] (1845) : a relish of chopped vegetables and spices

¹pic-co-lo \ˈpi-kə-ˌlō\ *adj* [It, small] (ca. 1854) : smaller than ordinary size ⟨a ~ banjo⟩

²piccolo *n, pl* **-los** [It, short for *piccolo flauto* small flute] (1856) : a small shrill flute whose range is an octave higher than that of an ordinary flute — **pic-co-lo-ist** \-ˌlō-ist\ *n*



piccolo

¹pice \ˈpīs\ *n, pl* **pice** [Hindi *paisā*] (1615) : PAISA

pi-ce-ous \ˈpī-sē-əs\ *adj* [L *piceus*, fr. *pic-*, *pix* pitch — more at PITCH] (1826) : of, relating to, or resembling pitch; *esp* : glossy brownish black in color ⟨an insect with a ~ abdomen⟩

¹pick \ˈpik\ *vb* [ME *piken*, partly fr. (assumed) OE *pician* (akin to MD *picken* to prick); partly fr. MF *piquer* to prick — more at PIKE] (14c) **1** : to pierce, penetrate, or break up with a pointed instrument ⟨~*ed* the hard clay⟩ **2 a** : to remove bit by bit ⟨~ meat from bones⟩ **b** : to remove covering or adhering matter from ⟨~ the bones⟩ **3 a** : to gather by plucking ⟨~ apples⟩ **b** : CHOOSE, SELECT ⟨tried to ~ the shortest route⟩ ⟨~ out the most expensive dress⟩ **c** : to make (one's way) slowly and carefully ⟨~*ed* his way through the rubble⟩ **4 a** : PILFER, RIFLE ⟨~ pockets⟩ **b** : to obtain useful information from by questioning ⟨~ in such phrases as *pick the brains of*⟩ **5** : PROVOKE ⟨~ing his teeth⟩ **b** : to pluck (as a guitar) with a pick **6 a** : to dig into : PROBE ⟨~ing his teeth⟩ **b** : to pluck (as a guitar) with a pick or with the fingers **c** : to loosen or pull apart with a sharp point ⟨~ wool⟩ **7** : to unlock with a device (as a wire) other than the key ⟨~ a lock⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to use or work with a pick **2** : to gather or harvest something by plucking **3** : PILFER — used in the phrase *picking and stealing* **4** : to eat sparingly or mincingly ⟨~ing fastidious at the dinner⟩ — **pick and choose** : to select with care and deliberation **pick at** : to criticize repeatedly esp. for minor faults : NAG — **pick on** : to single out for criticism, teasing, or bullying ⟨picked on as the boys⟩; *also* : to single out for a particular purpose or for special attention

²pick *n* (15c) **1** : a blow or stroke with a pointed instrument **2 a** : the act or privilege of choosing or selecting : CHOICE ⟨take your ~⟩ **b** : the best or choicest one ⟨the ~ of the herd⟩ **3** : the portion of a crop gathered at one time ⟨the first ~ of peaches⟩ **4** : a screen in a basketball

³pick *n* [ME *pik*] (14c) **1** : a heavy wooden-handled iron or steel tool pointed at one or both ends — compare MATTOCK **2 a** : TOOTHPICK **b** : PICKLOCK **c** : a small thin piece (as of plastic or metal) used to pluck the strings of a stringed instrument **3** : one of the points on the forefoot of the blade of a skate used in figure skating **4** : a comb with long widely spaced teeth used to give height to a hair style

⁴pick *vt* [ME *pykken* to pitch (a tent); akin to ME *picchen* to pitch] (1513) **1** *chiefly dial* : to throw or thrust with effort : HURL **2** : to throw (a shuttle) across the loom

⁵pick *n* (1627) **1** *dial Eng* **a** : the act of pitching or throwing **b** : something thrown **2 a** : throw of the shuttle **b** : a filling thread

pick-a-back \ˈpi-gē-ˌbak, ˈpi-kə-\ *var of* PIGGYBACK

pick-and-roll \ˈpik-ən(d)-ˈrōl\ *n* (ca. 1961) : a basketball play in which a player sets a screen and then cuts toward the basket for a pass

pick-and-shovel *adj* (1895) : done with or as if with a pick and shovel : LABORIOUS

pick-a-nin-ny *or* **pic-a-nin-ny** \ˈpi-kə-ˌni-nē, ˌpi-kə-\ *n, pl* **-nies** [prob. fr. Pg *pequenino*, dim. of *pequeno* small] (1653) : a black child — often taken to be offensive

pick-ax \ˈpik-ˌaks\ *n* [ME *pecaxe*, alter. of *pikois*, fr. OF *picois*, fr. *pic* pick, fr. L *picus* woodpecker — more at PIE] (15c) : ²PICK 1

pick-ed \ˈpi-kəd\ *adj* [ME, fr. ³*pick*] (14c) *chiefly dial* : POINTED, PEAKED

picked \ˈpikt\ *adj* [¹*pick*] (ca. 1548) : CHOICE, PRIME

picker \ˈpi-ˈkir\ *vi* [prob. modif. of F *picorer* to maraud, perh. fr. MF *picoreur* sheep, fr. OIt *pecora* — more at PECORINO] (ca. 1645) *archaic* : to skirmish in advance of an army; *also* : SCOUT, RECONNOITER

picker \ˈpi-kər\ *n* (14c) : one that picks: as **a** : a worker who picks something (as crops) **b** : a tool, implement, or machine used in picking up something **c** : a musician who picks a stringed instrument (as a banjo)

picker-el \ˈpi-k(ə-)rəl\ *n, pl* **-el** *or* **-els** [ME *pikerel*, dim. of *pike*] (13c) **1** *a dial chiefly Brit* : a young or small pike **b** : either of two fishes resembling but smaller than the related northern pike: (1) : CHAIN PICKEREL (2) : one (*Esox americanus*) having green or red fins and a black bar below and slanting away from the eye **2** : WALLEYE 3

picker-el-weed \-ˌwēd\ *n* (1836) : an American shallow-water monocotyledonous plant (*Pontederia cordata* of the family Pontederiaceae) with large leaves and a spike of blue flowers

picket \ˈpik-kət\ *n* [F *piquet*, fr. MF, fr. *piquer* to prick — more at PIKE] (ca. 1702) **1** : a pointed or sharpened stake, post, or pale **2 a** : a detached body of soldiers serving to guard an army from surprise **b** : a detachment kept ready in camp for such duty **c** : SENTRY **3** : a person posted by a labor organization at a place of work affected by a strike; *also* : a person posted for a demonstration or protest

picket *vt* (1745) **1** : to enclose, fence, or fortify with pickets **2** : to guard with a picket **b** : to post as a picket **3** : TETHER **4 a** : to post pickets at **b** : to walk or stand in front of as a picket ~ *vi* : to serve as a picket — **pick-et-er** *n*

picket-boat \ˈpi-kət-ˌbōt\ *n* (1866) : a craft used (as by the coast guard) for harbor patrol

picket line *n* (1856) **1** : a position held by a line of military pickets **2** : a line of people picketing a business, organization, or institution

pick-kings \ˈpi-kiŋz, -kənz\ *n pl* (1642) : something that is picked or picked up: as **a** : gleanable or eatable fragments : SCRAPS **b** : yield or return for effort expended

pick-le \ˈpi-kəl\ *n* [ME *pekille*] (15c) **1** : a solution or bath for preserving or cleaning: as **a** : a brine or vinegar solution in which foods are preserved **b** : any of various baths used in industrial cleaning or processing **2** : a difficult situation : PLIGHT ⟨could see no way out of the ~⟩ was in —R. L. Stevenson⟩ **3** : an article of food that has been preserved in brine or in vinegar; *specif* : a cucumber that has been so preserved **4** *Brit* : a mischievous or troublesome person

pickle *vt* **pick-led; pick-ling** \-k(ə-)liŋ\ (1570) **1** : to treat, preserve, or clean in or with a pickle **2** : to give a light finish to (as furniture) by bleaching or painting and wiping

pickle *n* [perh. fr. Sc *pickle* to trifle, pilfer] (1552) **1** *Scot* : GRAIN, KERNEL **2** *Scot* : a small quantity

pickled *adj* (ca. 1552) **1** : preserved in or cured with pickle ⟨~ herring⟩ **2** : DRUNK ⟨a ~ gets thoroughly ~ before dinner —*New Yorker*⟩

pickled-lock \ˈpik-ˌläk\ *n* (1553) **1** : BURGLAR **2** : a tool for picking locks

pick-me-up \ˈpik-mē-ˌəp\ *n* (1867) : something that stimulates or refreshes : TONIC, BRACER

picked off \ˈpik-ˌȯf\ *n* (1939) : a baseball play in which a base runner is picked off

pick off *vt* (1810) **1** : to shoot or bring down esp. one by one **2** : to put out (a base runner who is off base) with a quick throw (as from the pitcher or catcher) **3** : INTERCEPT ⟨*picked off* a pass⟩

pick out *vt* (1540) **1** : DISCERN, MAKE OUT **2** : to play the notes of by ear or one by one ⟨*picking out* tunes on the piano⟩

pick over *vt* (1839) : to examine in order to select the best or remove the unwanted

pick-pock-et \ˈpik-ˌpä-kət\ *n* (1591) : a thief who picks pockets

pick-proof \-ˌprüf\ *adj* (1933) : designed to prevent picking ⟨a ~ lock⟩

pick-thank \-ˌthaŋk\ *n* [fr. *pick a thank* to seek someone's favor] (15c) : SYCOPHANT

pick-up \ˈpik-ˌəp\ *n* (1848) **1** : one that is picked up: as **a** : a hitchhiker who is given a ride **b** : a temporary chance acquaintance **2** : the act or process of picking up: as **a** : a revival of business activity : ACCELERATION **3** : the conversion of mechanical movements into electrical impulses in the reproduction of sound; *also* : a device (as on a phonograph) for making such conversion **4 a** (1) : the reception of an image into a radio or television transmitting apparatus for conversion into electrical signals (2) : interference (as with such reception from an adjacent electrical circuit or system **b** : a device (as a microphone or a television camera) for converting sound or the image into electrical signals **c** : the place where a broadcast originates **d** : the electrical system for connecting to a broadcasting station a program produced outside the studio **5** : a light truck having an enclosed cab and an open body with low sides and tailgate — called also *pickup truck*

²pickup *adj* (1909) : utilizing or comprising local or available personnel esp. without formal organization ⟨a ~ basketball game⟩

pick up *vt* (14c) **1 a** : to take hold of and lift up **b** : to gather together : COLLECT ⟨*picked up* all the pieces⟩ **c** : to clean up : TIDY **2** : to take ⟨passengers or freight⟩ into a vehicle **3 a** : to acquire casually or by chance ⟨*picked up* a valuable antique at an auction⟩ **b** : to acquire by study or experience : LEARN ⟨*picking up* a great deal of knowledge in the process —Robert Schleicher⟩ **c** : to obtain esp. by payment : BUY ⟨*picked up* some groceries⟩ **d** : to acquire (a player) esp. from another team through a trade or by financial recompense **e** : to accept for the purpose of paying ⟨offered to *pick up* the tab⟩ **f** : to come down with : CATCH ⟨*picked up* a cold⟩ **g** : GAIN ⟨*picked up* a few yards on the last play⟩ **4 a** : to enter informally into conversation or companionship with (a previously unknown person) ⟨had a brief affair with a girl he *picked up* in a bar⟩ **b** : to take into custody ⟨the police *picked up* the fugitive⟩ **5 a** : to catch sight of : PERCEIVE ⟨*picked up* the harbor lights⟩ **b** : to come to and follow ⟨*picked up* the outlaw's trail⟩ **c** : to bring within range of sight or hearing ⟨*pick up* distant radio signals⟩ **d** : UNDERSTAND, CATCH ⟨didn't *pick up* the hint⟩ **6 a** : REVIVE **b** : INCREASE **7** : to resume after a break : CONTINUE ⟨*pick up* the discussion tomorrow⟩ **8** : to assume responsibility for guarding (an opponent) in an athletic contest ~ *vi* **1** : to recover speed, vigor, or activity : IMPROVE ⟨after the strike, business *picked up*⟩ **2** : to put things in order ⟨was always *picking up* after her⟩ **3** : to pack up one's belongings ⟨couldn't just *pick up* and leave⟩ — **pick up on** **1 a** : UNDERSTAND, APPRECIATE **b** : to become aware of : NOTICE **2** : to adopt as one's own : TAKE UP

Pick-wick-ian \(ˌ)pik-ˈwi-kē-ən\ *adj* [Samuel *Pickwick*, character in the novel *Pickwick Papers* (1836–37) by Charles Dickens] (1836) **1** : marked by simplicity and generosity **2** : intended or taken in a sense other than the obvious or literal one

picky \ˈpi-kē\ *adj* **pick-i-er; -est** (1917) : FUSSY, CHOOSY ⟨a ~ eater⟩

pi-clo-ram \ˈpī-klə-ˌram, ˈpī-\ *n* [picoline + chlor- + amine] (1965) : a systemic herbicide $C_6H_3Cl_3N_2O_2$ that breaks down only very slowly in the soil

¹pic-nic \ˈpik-(ˌ)nik\ *n, often attrib* [G or F; G *Picknick*, fr. F *pique-nique*] (1748) **1** : an excursion or outing with food usu. provided by members of the group and eaten in the open; *also* : the food provided for a picnic **2 a** : a pleasant or amusingly carefree experience ⟨I don't expect being married to be a ~ —Josephine Pinckney⟩ **b** : an easy task or feat **3** : a shoulder of pork with much of the bone removed — **pic-nic-ky** \-(ˌ)ni-kē\ *adj*

²picnic *vi* **pic-nicked; pic-nick-ing** (1842) : to go on a picnic : eat in picnic fashion — **pic-nick-er** *n*

pico- *comb form* [ISV, prob. fr. Sp *pico* small amount, lit., peak, beak] **1** : one trillionth (10^{-12}) part of ⟨*picogram*⟩ **2** : very small ⟨*picornavirus*⟩

pi-co-far-ad \ˌpē-kō-ˈfar-ˌad, -əd\ *n* [ISV] (ca. 1926) : one trillionth of a farad

pi-co-gram \ˈpē-kō-ˌgram, -kə-\ *n* [ISV] (1951) : one trillionth of a gram

pic-o-line \ˈpi-kə-ˌlēn, ˈpī-\ *n* [L *pic-*, *pix* pitch + ISV ¹*-ol* + ²*-ine* — more at PITCH] (1853) : any of the three liquid pyridine bases C_6H_7N used chiefly as solvents and in organic synthesis

pi-co-mole \ˈpē-kō-ˌmōl, -kə-\ *n* (1968) : one trillionth of a mole

pi-cor-na-vi-rus \(ˌ)pē-ˌkȯr-nə-ˈvī-rəs\ *n* [*pico-* + *RNA* + *virus*] (1962) : any of a group of small RNA-containing viruses that includes the enteroviruses and rhinoviruses

pi-co-sec-ond \ˌpē-kō-ˈse-kənd, -kənt\ *n* [ISV] (ca. 1962) : one trillionth of a second

¹pi-cot \ˈpē-(ˌ)kō, pē-ˈ\ *n* [F, lit., small point, fr. MF, fr. *pic* prick, fr. *piquer* to prick — more at PIKE] (ca. 1882) : one of a series of small ornamental loops forming an edging on ribbon or lace

²picot *vt* (1926) : to finish with picots

pic-o-tee \ˌpi-kə-ˈtē\ *n* [F *picoté* pointed, fr. *picoter* to mark with points, fr. *picot*] (1727) : a flower (as some carnations or tulips) having one basic color with a margin of another color

picr- *or* **picro-** *comb form* [F, fr. Gk *pikr-*, *pikro-*, fr. *pikros* — more at PAINT] : bitter ⟨*picric* acid⟩

pic-ric acid \ˈpi-krik-\ *n* [ISV] (1852) : a toxic explosive yellow crystalline strong acid $C_6H_3N_3O_7$ used esp. in high explosives and as a dye

pic-ro-tox-in \ˌpi-krō-ˈtäk-sən\ *n* [ISV] (1815) : a poisonous bitter crystalline stimulant and convulsive drug $C_{30}H_{34}O_{13}$ used intravenously as an antidote for barbiturate poisoning

Pict \ˈpikt\ *n* [ME *Pictes*, pl., Picts, fr. OE *Pihtas*, fr. LL *Picti*] (bef. 12c) : a member of a people of the north of Scotland who are first noted in historical records in the late 3d century and who became amalgamated with the Scots in the mid-8th century — **Pict-ish** \ˈpik-tish\ *adj or n*

pic-to-gram \ˈpik-tə-ˌgram\ *n* [ISV *picto-* (fr. L *pictus*) + *-gram*] (1910) : PICTOGRAPH

pic-to-graph \-ˌgraf\ *n* [L *pictus* + E *-o-* + *-graph*] (1851) **1** : an ancient or prehistoric drawing or painting on a rock wall **2** : one of the symbols belonging to a pictorial graphic system **3** : a diagram representing statistical data by pictorial forms — **pic-to-graph-ic** \ˌpik-tə-ˈgra-fik\ *adj*

pic-tog-ra-phy \ˌpik-ˈtä-gra-fē\ *n* (1851) : use of pictographs : PICTURE WRITING

¹pic-to-ri-al \pik-ˈtȯr-ē-əl, -ˈtōr-\ *adj* [LL *pictorius*, fr. L *pictor* painter] (1646) **1** : of or relating to a painter, a painting, or the painting or drawing of pictures ⟨~ perspective⟩ **2 a** : of, relating to, or consisting of pictures ⟨~ records⟩ **b** : illustrated by pictures ⟨~ weekly⟩ **c** : consisting of or displaying the characteristics of pictographs **d** : suggesting or conveying visual images ⟨~ poetry⟩ — **pic-to-ri-al-ly** \-ē-ə-lē\ *adv* — **pic-to-ri-al-ness** *n*

²pictorial *n* (1844) : a periodical having much pictorial matter

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