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Merriam-Webster's Collegiate[®] Dictionary

TENTH EDITION

Merriam-Webster, Incorporated
Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A.



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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* (1890) : a solution of a salt or salts that is essentially isotonic with living fluids or blood

phys-iol-o-gy \fī-zē-ō-lə-jē\ *n* [L *physiologia* natural science, fr. Gk. fr. *physis*- + *-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 in them — compare ANATOMY 2 : the organic processes and phenomena of an organism or of its parts or of a particular bodily process — **phys-iol-o-gist** \fī-zē-ō-lə-jēt\ *n* (ca. 1889) : a

phys-iol-pa-thol-o-gy \fī-zē-ō-pa-'thā-lə-jē, -pa-\ *n* (ca. 1889) : a branch of biology or medicine that combines physiology and pathology

phys-iol-pa-thol-o-gy \fī-zē-ō-pa-'thā-lə-jē, -pa-\ *n* (ca. 1889) : a branch of biology or medicine that combines physiology and pathology

o-logic \fī-zē-ō-lə-jik\ or **phys-iol-path-o-log-i-cal** \fī-zē-ō-lə-jik\ *adj* (17) : pertaining to the study of altered bodily function in disease — **phys-iol-path-o-log-y** \fī-zē-ō-pa-'thā-lə-jē\ *n* [NL *physiopathologia*, fr. *physi-* + *-therapia* therapy] (ca. 1903) : PHYSICAL THERAPY — **phys-iol-pa-thol-o-gist** \fī-zē-ō-pa-'thā-lə-jēt\ *n*

phys-ique \fā-'zē-k\ *n* [F, fr. *physique* physical, bodily, fr. L *physicus* of nature, fr. Gk *phṓsikos*] (1813) : the form or structure of a person's body : bodily make-up

phy-so-stim-u-lant \fī-sō-'stīm-mēn\ *n* [ISV, fr. NL *Physostimula*, genus of vines that bear the Calabar bean] (1864) : a crystalline tasteless alkaloid C₁₉H₂₁N₃O₂ from the Calabar bean that is used in medicine as the base of its salicylate for its anticholinergic activity

phyt- or **phyto-** comb form [NL, fr. Gk *phŷton*, fr. *phyein* to bring forth — more at BE]; plant (*photon*)

phy-tane \fī-'tān\ *n* (1907) : a branched isoprenoid hydrocarbon C₂₀H₄₂ that is present in plants associated with fossilized plant remains from the Precambrian and later periods

phytic \fī-'tik\ *comb form* [ISV, fr. Gk *phyton* plant] : plant having a (speci-)fic characteristic or habitat (*xerophytic*)

phytic \fī-'tik\ *comb form* [ISV, fr. Gk *phyton* plant] : like a plant (*holo-phytic*)

phy-to-a-lex-in \fī-tō-'alēks-ən\ *n* [ISV *phyt-* + *alexin* substance combating infection, fr. Gk *alexein* to ward off, protect; akin to Skt *raksati* he protects] (1949) : a chemical substance produced by a plant to combat infection by a pathogen (as a fungus)

phy-to-che-m-i-cal \fī-'ke-mi-kəl\ *adj* (ca. 1858) : of, relating to, or being phytochemistry — **phy-to-che-m-i-cal-ly** \fī-'ke-'lē-əd\ *adv*

phy-to-che-m-is-try \fī-'ke-mo-strē\ *n* (1837) : the chemistry of plants, plant processes, and plant products — **phy-to-che-m-ist** \fī-'ke-mist\ *n* plant processes, and plant products — (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-lat \fī-tō-'flā-jə-lāt-, -lāt; -flə-'jē-l\ *n* (1935) : any of various organisms (as dinoflagellates) that are considered a subclass (Phytoplankton) usu. of algae by botanists (Phytoplanktonophora sens. Phytoplankton) and that have many characteristics in common with typical algae

phy-to-geo-graph-y \fī-'tō-'grā-fē-jē\ *n* [ISV] (1847) : the biogeography of plants — **phy-to-geo-gra-pher** \fī-'tō-'grā-fēr\ *n* — **phy-to-geo-graph-i-cal** \fī-'tō-'grā-fikəl\ or **phy-to-geo-graph-i-cally** \fī-'tō-'grā-fikəl\ *adv*

phy-to-hem-ag-glut-i-nin \fī-'hē-mo-'glū-'tī-n\ *n* (1949) : a proteinaceous hemagglutinating plant origin used esp. to induce mitosis (as in lymphocytes)

phy-to-hor-mone \fī-'hōr-'mōn\ *n* [ISV] (1933) : PLANT HORMONE

phy-ton \fī-'tān\ *n* [N], fr. Gk *plantōn*] (1848) 1 : a structural unit of a plant consisting of a leaf and its associated portion of stem 2 : the smallest part of a stem, root, or leaf that when severed may grow into a new plant — **phy-ton-ic** \fī-'tā-nik\ *adj*

phy-to-path-o-gen \fī-tō-'pa-thə-jən\ *n* (ca. 1930) : an organism parasitic on a plant host — **phy-to-path-o-gen-ic** \fī-'pa-thə-'jenik\ *adj*

phy-to-pa-thol-o-gy \fī-'pa-thā-lə-jē, -lə\ *n* [ISV] (ca. 1859) : plant pathology — **phy-to-pa-thol-o-gi-cal** \fī-'pa-thā-lə-jikəl\ *adj*

phy-toph-a-gous \fī-'tā-fə-gəs\ *adj* (1826) : feeding on plants (< a insect)

phy-to-plank-ton \fī-'tō-'plānk(k)-tən\ *n* (1944) : a planktonic plant

phy-to-plank-ton \fī-'plānk(k)-tən-, -tān\ *n* [ISV] (1897) : planktonic plant life — **phy-to-plank-ton-ic** \fī-'plānk(k)-'tā-nik\ *adj*

phy-to-so-ci-o-log-i-cal \fī-'sō-sē-'lō-jē, -sē\ *adj* (ca. 1928) : a branch of ecology concerned esp. with the structure, composition, and interrelationships of plant communities — **phy-to-so-ci-o-log-i-cally** \fī-'sō-sē-'lō-jē-kəl\ *adv*

phy-to-ste-ro-id \fī-'tās-tē-rōl-, -rōl\ *n* [ISV] (1898) : any of various steroids derived from plants — compare ZOSTEROL

phy-to-tox-ic \fī-'tō-'tāks-ik\ *adj* (1926) : poisonous to plants — **phy-to-tox-i-ci-ty** \fī-'tāks-'si-sē-tē\ *n*

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

pī also **pie** **w** **pi** **vied**; **pi-ing** **w** **pi-ing** **w** (1870) : to spill or throw (type or type matter) into disorder — **w** **pi** : to become pied

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

pī *pl* **pīs** /pīz/ [MGK, fr. Gk *pei*, of Sem origin; akin to Heb *pē* table] (1823) 1 : the 16th letter of the Greek alphabet 2 : a branch of mathematics (1823) 1 : the symbol π denoting the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter 2 : the ratio of a transcendental number having a value to eight decimal places of 3.14159265

pī-al \pī-'āl-, -pē-'āl\ *adj* (1889) : of or relating to the pia mater

pia ma-ter \pī-'mə-tər-, -pē-'mə-tər\ *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

pia ni-sm \pī-'ni-zəm\ *n* (1844) 1 : the art or technique of piano playing 2 : the composition or adaptation of music for the piano

pī-a-nis-si-mo \pē-'ni-si-mō\ *adv* or *adj* [It, fr. *piano* softly] (1724) 1 : very softly — used as a direction in music

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

pī-a-nist \pī-'ni-st-, -pē-'ni-st\ *n* (ca. 1828) : one who plays the piano; *esp* one skilled or professional performer on the piano

piccolo

pickled *vt* **PICK-LE**
or clean in or with
bleaching or pain
PICKLE *n* [perh.
KERNEL] 2 Scot:
pickled *adj* (ca.
1700) 2: DRUNK
pick-lock *v* 'pik-
lɒks
pick-me-up *v* 'pik-
məʊp *restores*: TONIC
pick-off *v* 'pik-ɒf
picked off
pick off *vt* (1810)
put out (a base
pitcher or

\ə\ about \ɪ\ kitten, F table \ə\ further \ə\ ash \ā\ ace \ā\ mop, mar
 \aʊ\ out \ch\ chin \e\ bet \ē\ easy \g\ go \i\ hit \I\ ice \j\ job
 \ŋ\ sing \ò\ go \ò\ law \oi\ boy \th\ thin \th\ the \ü\ loot \û\ foot
 \y\ yet \zh\ vision \á, k, ʰ, æ, œ, ʊ, ʉ, ʏ\ see Guide to Pronunciation