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mas-toid /'mas,toid/ ► **adj.** Anatomy of or relating to the mastoid process: *mastoid disease*.

► **n.** Anatomy the mastoid process. ■ (**mastoids**) [treated as sing.] Informal mastoiditis.

— **ORIGIN** mid 18th cent.: via French and modern Latin from Greek *mastoeidēs* 'breast-shaped,' from *mastos* 'breast.'

mas-toid-i-tis /'mas,toid'itis/ ► **n.** Medicine inflammation of the mastoid process.

mas-toid process ► **n.** a conical prominence of the temporal bone behind the ear, to which neck muscles are attached, and which has air spaces linked to the middle ear.

mas-tur-bate /'mæstə,bæt/ ► **v.** [no obj.] stimulate one's own genitals for sexual pleasure. ■ [with obj.] stimulate the genitals of (someone) to give them sexual pleasure.

— **DERIVATIVES** **mas-tur-ba-tion** /'mæstə,bæʃən/ **n.**, **mas-tur-ba-tor n.**, **mas-tur-ba-to-ry** /-bætəri/ **adj.**
— **ORIGIN** mid 19th cent.: from Latin *masturbat* 'masturbated,' from the verb *masturbari*, of unknown ultimate origin.

Ma-su-ri-a /mə'soʊəriə/ a low-lying forested region in northeastern Poland. Formerly part of East Prussia, it was assigned to Poland after World War II. Also called **Masurian Lakes**.

MAT /mat/ ► **n.** a technology that uses chemicals (usually petrolatum, dimethicone, and polyquaternium) to reduce the ability of bacteria to adhere to the skin: *the company is developing MAT-containing soaps*.

— **ORIGIN** abbr. of *microbial anti-attachment technology*.

MAT ► **abbr.** Master of Arts in Teaching.

mat /mat/ ► **n.** 1 a piece of protective material placed on a floor, in particular: ■ a piece of coarse material placed on a floor for people to wipe their feet on. ■ a piece of resilient material for landing on in gymnastics, wrestling, or similar sports. ■ a small rug. ■ a piece of coarse material for lying on: *a beach mat*.

2 a small piece of cork, card, or similar material placed on a table or other surface to protect it from the heat or moisture of an object placed on it.
3 a thick, untidy layer of something hairy or woolly: *his chest was covered by a thick mat of soft fair hair*.

► **v.** (**mat, matting, matted**) [with obj.] tangle (something, esp. hair) in a thick mass: *sweat matted his hair* | *the fur on its flank was matted with blood*. ■ [no obj.] become tangled.

— **PHRASES** **go to the mat** informal vigorously engage in an argument or dispute, typically on behalf of a particular person or cause. **on the mat** informal being reprimanded by someone in authority. [with military reference to the orderly room mat, where an accused would stand before the commanding officer.]

— **ORIGIN** Old English *mat(e)att(e)*; related to Dutch *mat* and German *Matte*, from late Latin *matta*, from Phoenician.

mat ► **n.** short for **MATRIX** (sense 2).

mat ► **adj.**, **n.**, & **v.** variant spelling of **MATTE**.

mat. ► **abbr.** ■ **matins**. ■ **maturity**.

Mat-a-be-le /'mætə,bɛlə/ ► **n.** the Ndebele people collectively, particularly those of Zimbabwe.
— **ORIGIN** from Sotho *matebele*, singular *letebele*, the name given to this people.

mat-a-dor /'mætə,dɔr/ ► **n.** 1 a bullfighter whose task is to kill the bull.
2 (in ombre, skat, and other card games) any of the highest trumps.

3 a domino game in which halves are matched so as to make a total of seven. ■ any of the dominoes that have seven spots altogether, together with the double blank.

— **ORIGIN** Spanish, literally 'killer,' from *matar* 'to kill,' from Persian *māt* 'dead'; senses relating to games are extended uses, expressing a notion of dominance or control.

Mat-a-gor-da Bay /'mætə,gɔrdə/ an inlet of the Gulf of Mexico in southeastern Texas, at the mouth of the Colorado River.

Ma-ta Ha-ri /'mætə'həri/, 'matə'həri/ (1876–1917), Dutch dancer and secret agent; born *Margaretha Geertruida Zelle*. She probably worked for both French and German intelligence services before being executed by the French in 1917. ■ (as noun **a Mata Hari**) a beautiful and seductive female spy.
— **ORIGIN** from Malay *mata* 'eye' and *hari* 'day,' as a compound meaning 'sun.'

ma-ta-ma-ta /'matəmətə/ ► **n.** a grotesque South American freshwater turtle that has a broad flat head and neck with irregular projections of skin resembling waterweed. ■ *Chelus fimbriatus*, family Chelidae.

— **ORIGIN** mid 19th cent.: of unknown origin; probably from a South American Indian language.

Mat-a-nus-ka Val-ley /'matə'nōʊskə/ an agricultural region in south central Alaska, northeast of Anchorage.

match /'mætʃ/ ► **n.** 1 a contest in which people or teams compete against each other in a particular sport: *a boxing match*.

2 a person or thing able to contend with another as an equal in quality or strength: *they were no match for the trained mercenaries*.

3 a person or thing that resembles or corresponds to another: *the child's identical twin would be a perfect match for organ donation*. ■ Computing a string that fulfills the specified conditions of a computer search. ■ a pair that corresponds or is very similar: *the headresses and bouquet were a perfect match*.

■ the fact or appearance of corresponding: *stones of a perfect match and color*.

4 a person viewed in regard to their eligibility for marriage, esp. as regards class or wealth: *he was an unsuitable match for any of their girls*. ■ a marriage: *a dynastic match*.

► **v.** [with obj.] 1 correspond or cause to correspond in some essential respect; make or be harmonious: [with obj.] *we bought green and blue curtains to match the bedspread* | *she matched her steps to his* [no obj.] *the jacket and pants do not match*. ■ team (someone or something) with someone or something else appropriate or harmonious: *they matched suitably qualified applicants with institutions that had vacancies* | *she was trying to match the draperies to the couch*.

2 be equal to (something) in quality or strength: *his anger matched her own*. ■ succeed in reaching or equalling (a standard or quality): *he tried to match her nonchalance*. ■ equalize (two coupled electrical impedances) so as to bring about the maximum transfer of power from one to the other.

3 place (a person or group) in contest or competition with another: *the big names were matched against nobodies* (as **adj.**, with submodifier **matched**) *evenly matched teams*.

— **PHRASES** **make a match** form a partnership, esp. by getting married. **meet one's match** encounter one's equal in strength or ability: *Iris had met her match*. **to match** corresponding in some essential respect with something previously mentioned or chosen: *a new coat and a hat to match*.

— **PHRASAL VERBS** **match up to** be as good as or equal to: *she matches up to the challenges of the job*. **match someone with** archaic bring about the marriage of someone to: *try if you can to match her with a duke*.

— **DERIVATIVES** **match-a-ble** **adj.**

— **ORIGIN** Old English *gemæcca* 'mate, companion'; related to the base of **MAKE**.

match ► **n.** a short, thin piece of wood or cardboard used to light a fire, being tipped with a composition that ignites when rubbed against a rough surface.

■ historical a piece of wick or cord designed to burn at a uniform rate, used for firing a cannon or lighting gunpowder.

— **PHRASES** **put a match to** set fire to:

— **ORIGIN** late Middle English (in the sense 'wick of a candle'): from Old French *meche*, perhaps from Latin *myxa* 'spout of a lamp,' later 'lamp wick.'

match-board /'mætʃ,bɔrd/ ► **n.** any of a set of interlocking boards joined together by a tongue cut along the edge of one board and fitting into a groove along the edge of another. Also called **matched board**.

match-book /'mætʃ,bʊk/ ► **n.** a small cardboard folder of matches with a striking surface on one side.

match-box /'mætʃ,bɒks/ ► **n.** a small box in which matches are sold. ■ [usu. as modifier] something very small, esp. a house, apartment, or room: *her new thimble-sized, matchbox apartment*.

match-ing /'mætʃɪŋ/ ► **adj.** 1 corresponding in pattern, color, or design; complementary: *a blue jacket and matching skirt*.

2 equal in number or amount; equivalent: *the college will provide matching funds to complete the project*.

match-less /'mætʃlɪs/ ► **adj.** unable to be equaled; incomparable: *the Parthenon has a matchless beauty*.

— **DERIVATIVES** **match-less-ly** **adv.**

match-lock /'mætʃ,lɒk/ ► **n.** historical a type of gun with a lock in which a piece of wick or cord is placed for igniting the powder: [as modifier] *matchlock guns*. ■ a lock of this kind.

match-mak-er /'mætʃ,mæker/ ► **n.** a person who arranges relationships and marriages between others, either informally or, in certain cultural communities, as a formal occupation. ■ a person or company that brings parties together for commercial purposes.

— **DERIVATIVES** **match-mak-ing** /-mækiŋ/ **n.**

match play ► **n.** play in golf in which the score is reckoned by counting the holes won by each side, as

opposed to the number of strokes taken. Compare with **STROKE PLAY**.

match point ► **n.** 1 (in tennis and other sports) a point that if won by one contestant will also win the match.

2 (**matchpoint**) (in duplicate bridge) a unit of scoring in matches and tournaments: *a convincing margin of 54 matchpoints*.

match-stick /'mætʃ,stɪk/ ► **n.** the stem of a match, esp. a wooden one. ■ something likened to a match, in being long and thin: *cut the vegetables into matchsticks* [as modifier] *matchstick legs*.

match-up /'mætʃəp/ ► **n.** a contest between athletes or sports teams: *a matchup of two twenty-something pitchers wondering what it is like to win in the majors*. ■ Basketball another term for a man-to-man defense. See **MAN-TO-MAN** at **MAN**.

match-wood /'mætʃ,wʊd/ ► **n.** very small pieces or splinters of wood: *their boat was shattered into matchwood against the rocks*. ■ light wood suitable for making matches.

mate /'meɪt/ ► **n.** 1 each of a pair of birds or other animals: *a male bird sings to court a mate*. ■ informal a person's husband, wife, or other sexual partner. ■ informal one of a matched pair: *a sock without its mate*.

2 [in combination] a fellow member or joint occupant of a specified thing: *his tablemates*. ■ Brit. informal used as a friendly form of address between men or boys: *'See you then, mate.'* ■ Brit. informal a friend or companion: *I was with a mate* | *my best mate, Steve*. 3 an assistant or deputy, in particular: ■ an assistant to a skilled worker: *a plumber's mate*. ■ a deck officer on a merchant ship subordinate to the master. See also **FIRST MATE**.

► **v.** 1 [no obj.] (of animals or birds) come together for breeding; copulate: *successful males may mate with many females*. ■ [with obj.] bring (animals or birds) together for breeding. ■ join in marriage or sexual partnership: *people tend to mate with others in their own social class*.

2 connect or be connected mechanically. [with obj.] *a four-cylinder engine mated to a five-speed gearbox*.

— **DERIVATIVES** **mate-less** **adj.**

— **ORIGIN** late Middle English: from Middle Low German *mat(e)* 'comrade,' of West Germanic origin; related to **MEAT** (the underlying notion being that of eating together).

mate ► **n.** & **v.** Chess short for **CHECKMATE**.

— **ORIGIN** Middle English: the noun from Anglo-Norman French *mat* (from the phrase *eschec mat* 'checkmate'); the verb from Anglo-Norman French *mater* 'to checkmate.'

ma-té /'mätə/ (also **yerba maté**) ► **n.** 1 (also **maté tea**) an infusion of the leaves of a South American shrub, which is high in caffeine and bitter. ■ the leaves of this shrub.

2 the South American shrub of the holly family that produces these leaves. ■ *Ilex paraguariensis*, family Aquifoliaceae.

— **ORIGIN** early 18th cent.: from Spanish *mate*, from Quechua *mati*.

mat-e-las-sé /'matlāsə, mätlāsə/ ► **adj.** (of a silk or wool fabric) having a raised design like quilting.

► **n.** fabric of this type.

— **ORIGIN** late 19th cent.: French, literally 'quilted,' past participle of *matelasser*, from *matelas* 'mattress.'

mate-lot /'matlɒt, mat'lɒ/ ► **n.** Brit. informal a sailor.

— **ORIGIN** mid 19th cent. (nautical slang): from French, variant of *matenot*, from Middle Dutch *mattenoot* 'bed companion,' because sailors had to share hammocks in twos.

mat-e-lote /'matlɒt, mat'lɒt/ ► **n.** a dish of fish in a sauce of wine and onions.

— **ORIGIN** French, from *à la matelote*, literally 'mariner-style,' from *matelot* 'sailor' (see **MATELOT**).

ma-ter /'mætr/ ► **n.** Brit. informal or dated mother: *the mater has kept the house in London*.

— **ORIGIN** Latin.

ma-ter do-lo-ro-sa /'mætr dɒlə'rɒsə, 'mætr, dāl/ the Virgin Mary sorrowing for the death of Jesus Christ, esp. as a representation in art.

— **ORIGIN** from medieval Latin, 'sorrowful mother.'

ma-ter-fa-mil-i-as /'mætrəfə'milɪəs, mætr-/ ► **n.** (pl. **matresfamilias** /'mättrəs, 'mætrəz/) the female head of a family or household. Compare with **PATERFAMILIAS**.

— **ORIGIN** Latin, from *mater* 'mother' + *familias*, old genitive form of *familia* 'family.'

ma-te-ri-al /'meɪt(ə)rɪəl/ ► **n.** 1 the matter from which a thing is or can be made: *goats can eat more or less any plant material* | *materials such as brass* | *highly flammable materials*. ■ (usu. **materials**) things needed for an activity: *cleaning materials*.

■ [with **adj.** or noun modifier] a person of a specified

quality or suitability: *he's not really Olympic material.*

2 facts, information, or ideas for use in creating a book or other work: *there is much good material here for priests to use in sermons.* ■ items, esp. songs or jokes, comprising a performer's act: *a band playing original material.*

3 cloth or fabric: *a piece of dark material | dress materials.*

► **adj.** 1 [attrib.] denoting or consisting of physical objects rather than the mind or spirit: *the material world | moral and material support.* ■ concerned with physical needs or desires: *material living standards have risen.* ■ concerned with the matter of reasoning, not its form: *political conflict lacks mathematical or material certitude.*

2 important; essential; relevant: *the insects did not do any material damage to the crop.* ■ chiefly Law (of evidence or a fact) significant, influential, or relevant, esp. to the extent of determining a cause or affecting a judgment: *information that could be material to a murder inquiry.*

— **ORIGIN** late Middle English (in the sense 'relating to matter'): from late Latin *materialis*, adjective from Latin *materia* 'matter.'

ma-te-ri-al cause ► **n.** Philosophy (in Aristotelian thought) the matter or substance that constitutes a thing.

ma-te-ri-al-ism /mə'ti(ə)rēə'lizəm/ ► **n.** 1 a tendency to consider material possessions and physical comfort as more important than spiritual values.

2 Philosophy the doctrine that nothing exists except matter and its movements and modifications. ■ the doctrine that consciousness and will are wholly due to material agency. See also **DILECTICAL MATERIALISM**.

— **DERIVATIVES** **ma-te-ri-al-ist** **n.** & **adj.**

ma-te-ri-al-is-tic /mə'ti(ə)rēə'listik/ ► **adj.** excessively concerned with material possessions; money-oriented: *we're living in a highly materialistic society.*

— **DERIVATIVES** **ma-te-ri-al-is-ti-cal-ly** **adv.**

ma-te-ri-al-i-ty /mə'ti(ə)rēə'lɪtē/ ► **n.** (pl. **materialities**) the quality or character of being material or composed of matter. ■ chiefly Law the quality of being relevant or significant: *the applicant must establish materiality on the balance of probabilities.*

ma-te-ri-al-ize /mə'ti(ə)rēə'lɪz/ ► **v.** [no obj.] 1 (of a ghost, spirit, or similar entity) appear in bodily form. ■ [with obj.] cause to appear in bodily or physical form.

2 become actual fact; happen: *the assumed savings may not materialize.* ■ appear or be present: *the train didn't materialize.*

— **DERIVATIVES** **ma-te-ri-al-i-za-tion** /mə'ti(ə)rēə'lə'zæʃən/ **n.**

ma-te-ri-al-ly /mə'ti(ə)rēə'lē/ ► **adv.** 1 [often as submodifier] substantially; considerably: *materially different circumstances.*

2 in terms of wealth or material possessions: *a materially and culturally rich area.*

ma-te-ri-al wit-ness ► **n.** Law a witness whose evidence is likely to be sufficiently important to influence the outcome of a trial.

ma-te-ria med-i-ca /mə'ti(ə)rēə'medɪkə/ ► **n.** the body of remedial substances used in the practice of medicine. ■ the study of the origin and properties of these substances.

— **ORIGIN** late 17th cent.: modern Latin, translation of Greek *hulē iatrikē* 'healing material' (the title of a work by Dioscorides).

ma-te-ri-el /mə'ti(ə)rēə'l/ (also **matériel**) ► **n.** military materials and equipment. Often contrasted with **PERSONNEL**.

— **ORIGIN** early 19th cent.: from French *matériel*, adjective (used as a noun).

ma-te-r-nal /mə'tɜːnl/ ► **adj.** of or relating to a mother, esp. during pregnancy or shortly after childbirth: *maternal age | maternal care.* ■ [attrib.] related through the mother's side of the family: *my maternal grandfather.* ■ denoting feelings associated with or typical of a mother; motherly: *maternal instincts.*

— **DERIVATIVES** **ma-ter-nal-ism** /-ɪzəm/ **n.**

ma-ter-nal-ist /-ɪst/ **adj.**, **ma-ter-nal-is-tic** /-ɪstɪk/ **adj.**, **ma-ter-nal-ly** **adv.**

— **ORIGIN** late 15th cent.: from French *maternel*, from Latin *maternus*, from *mater* 'mother.'

ma-ter-ni-ty /mə'tɜːnəti/ ► **n.** motherhood. ■ [usu. as modifier] the period during pregnancy and shortly after childbirth: *maternity leave | maternity clothes.*

— **ORIGIN** early 17th cent.: from French *maternité*, from Latin *maternus*, from *mater* 'mother.'

mate-y /mā'tē/ Brit. informal ► **n.** used as a familiar and sometimes hostile form of address, esp. to a stranger: *"Shove off, matey, she's mine."*

► **adj.** (**matier**, **matiest**) familiar and friendly; sociable: *a fixed, matey grin.*

math /mæθ/ ► **n.** informal mathematics: *she teaches math and science.*

— **ORIGIN** mid 19th cent.: abbreviation.

math-e-mat-i-cal /mæθ(ə)'matɪkəl/ (also **mathematic**) ► **adj.** of or relating to mathematics: *mathematical equations.* ■ (Of a proof or analysis) rigorously precise: *mathematical thinking | figurative he arranged the meal with mathematical precision on a plate.*

— **DERIVATIVES** **math-e-mat-i-cal-ly** /-ɪk(ə)lē/ **adv.**

— **ORIGIN** late Middle English: from Latin *mathematicalis*, from Greek *mathēmatikos*, from *mathēma*, *mathēmat* 'science', from the base of *manthanein* 'learn.'

math-e-mat-i-cal in-duc-tion ► **n.** see **INDUCTION** (sense 3).

math-e-mat-i-cal log-ic ► **n.** the part of mathematics concerned with the study of formal languages, formal reasoning, the nature of mathematical proof, provability of mathematical statements, computability, and other aspects of the foundations of mathematics.

math-e-ma-ti-cian /mæθ(ə)'mætɪʃən/ ► **n.** an expert in or student of mathematics.

— **ORIGIN** late Middle English: from Old French *mathématicien*, from Latin *mathematicus* 'mathematical', from Greek *mathēmatikos* (see **MATHEMATICAL**).

math-e-mat-ics /mæθ(ə)'matɪks/ ► **plural n.** [usu. treated as sing.] the abstract science of number, quantity, and space. Mathematics may be studied in its own right (**pure mathematics**), or as it is applied to other disciplines such as physics and engineering (**applied mathematics**). ■ [often treated as pl.] the mathematical aspects of something: *the mathematics of general relativity.*

— **ORIGIN** late 16th cent.: plural of obsolete *mathematic* 'mathematics', from Old French *mathématique*, from Latin (*ars*) *mathematica* 'mathematical (art)', from Greek *mathēmatikē* (*tekhnē*), from the base of *manthanein* 'learn.'

math-e-ma-tize /mæθ(ə)'mæ'tɪz/ ► **v.** [with obj.] regard or treat (a subject or problem) in mathematical terms.

— **DERIVATIVES** **math-e-ma-ti-za-tion** /mæθ(ə)'mætə'zæʃən/ **n.**

Math-er¹ /mæθər/, Cotton (1663–1728), American minister and writer; son of Increase Mather. Noted for his political writings, he sponsored the Massachusetts charter in 1691 and is thought to have influenced the events that led to the Salem witch trials in 1692.

Math-er², Increase (1639–1723), American minister; father of Cotton Mather. A Congregationalist, he was the pastor of North Church in Boston 1664–1723 and the president of Harvard College 1685–1701.

Math-er³, John Cromwell (1946–), US astrophysicist. His work with George Smoot on the COBE project advanced the study of the Big Bang theory. Nobel Prize for Physics (2006), shared with Smoot.

Math-ew-son /mæθyūsən/, Christy (1880–1925), US baseball player; full name *Christopher Mathewson*. A pitcher for the New York Giants 1900–1916, he won 22 or more games per year for 12 straight years and pitched three shutouts in the 1905 World Series. He later managed the Cincinnati Reds 1916–18 and was president of the Boston Braves 1923–25. Baseball Hall of Fame (1936).

Ma-thi-as /mæ'thiəs/, Bob (1930–2006), US track and field athlete and politician; full name *Robert Bruce Mathias*. At 17, he was the youngest winner of the decathlon with a gold medal in the 1948 Olympic Games and another in the 1952 games. He later served as a Republican member of the US House of Representatives from California 1967–1975.

maths /mæθs/ ► **plural n.** [treated as sing.] Brit. informal mathematics: [as modifier] *her mother was a maths teacher.*

— **ORIGIN** early 20th cent.: abbreviation.

Ma-til-da¹ /mæ'tɪldə/ (1102–67), English princess; daughter of Henry I and mother of Henry II; known as the *Empress Maud*. Henry's only legitimate child, she was named his heir, but her cousin Stephen seized the throne on Henry's death in 1135. She waged an unsuccessful civil war against Stephen until 1148.

Ma-til-da² ► **n.** Austral. informal a bushman's bundle of possessions carried when traveling.

— **PHRASES** **waltz** (or **walk**) *Matilda* carry such a bundle.

— **ORIGIN** late 19th cent.: from the given name *Matilda*.

mat-in-al /'mætn-l/ ► **adj.** rare relating to or taking place in the morning.

— **ORIGIN** early 19th cent.: from French, from *matin* 'morning.'

mat-i-nee /'mætn-ə/ (also **matinée**) ► **n.** a performance in a theater or a showing of a movie that takes place in the daytime.

— **ORIGIN** mid 19th cent.: from French *matinée*, literally 'morning (as a period of activity)', from *matin* 'morning.'

mat-i-nee i-dol ► **n.** informal, dated a handsome actor admired chiefly by women.

mat-ing /'mætɪŋ/ ► **n.** the action of animals coming together to breed; copulation: *ovulation occurs only if mating has taken place.*

mat-ins /'mætnz/ (Brit. also **mattins**) ► **n.** a service of morning prayer in various churches, esp. the Anglican Church. ■ a service forming part of the traditional Divine Office of the Western Christian Church, originally said (or chanted) at or after midnight, but historically often held with lauds on the previous evening. ■ (also **matin**) literary the morning song of birds.

— **ORIGIN** Middle English: from Old French *matines*, plural (influenced by ecclesiastical Latin *matutinae* 'morning prayers') of *matin* 'morning', from Latin *matutinus*, neuter of *matutinus* 'early in the morning', from *Matuta*, the name of the dawn goddess.

Ma-tisse /mætēs, mā-/ , Henri (Emile Benoît) (1869–1954), French painter and sculptor. His use of nonnaturalistic color led him to be considered a leader among the Fauvists. His later paintings and sculptures display a trend toward formal simplification and abstraction.

Ma-to Gros-so /mætə'grɒsə/ a high plateau region in southwestern Brazil that forms a watershed between the Amazon and Plate river systems.

— **ORIGIN** Portuguese, literally 'dense forest.'

ma-tri-arch /'mætrɪ'ɑːrk/ ► **n.** a woman who is the head of a family or tribe. ■ an older woman who is powerful within a family or organization: *a domineering matriarch.*

— **DERIVATIVES** **ma-tri-ar-chal** /'mætrɪ'ɑːrkəl/ **adj.** — **ORIGIN** early 17th cent.: from Latin *mater* 'mother', on the false analogy of *patriarch*.

ma-tri-ar-cha-te /'mætrɪ'ɑːrkət, -'ɑːrkət/ ► **n.** a matriarchal form of social organization, esp. in a tribal society.

ma-tri-ar-chy /'mætrɪ'ɑːrkē/ ► **n.** (pl. **matriarchies**) a system of society or government ruled by a woman or women. ■ a form of social organization in which descent and relationship are reckoned through the female line. ■ the state of being an older, powerful woman in a family or group: *she cherished a dream of matriarchy—catered to by grandchildren.*

ma-tri-ces /'mætrɪ'sɛz/ plural form of **MATRIX**.

mat-ri-cide /'mætrɪ'sɪd, 'mā-/ ► **n.** the killing of one's mother: *a man suspected of matricide.* ■ a person who kills their mother.

— **DERIVATIVES** **mat-ri-cid-al** /'mætrɪ'sɪdl, 'mā-/ **adj.** — **ORIGIN** late 16th cent.: from Latin *matricidium*, from *mater*, *matr* 'mother' + *-cidium* (see **-cide**).

ma-tric-u-late /'mæ'trɪkju,læt/ ► **v.** 1 [no obj.] be enrolled at a college or university: *he matriculated at the University of Vermont.* ■ [with obj.] admit (a student) to a college or university.

2 [with obj.] Heraldry, chiefly Scottish record (arms) in an official register.

► **n.** /'mæ'trɪkju,lət/ chiefly Indian a person who has matriculated.

— **DERIVATIVES** **ma-tri-cu-la-tion** /mæ'trɪkju,lə'shən/ **n.** — **ORIGIN** late 16th cent.: from medieval Latin *matriculat* 'enrolled', from the verb *matriculare*, from late Latin *matricula* 'register', diminutive of Latin *matris*.

mat-ri-fo-cal /'mætrɪ'fɒkəl, 'mā-/ ► **adj.** (of a society, culture, etc.) based on the mother as the head of the family or household.

— **ORIGIN** 1950s: from Latin *mater*, *matr* 'mother' + **FOCAL**.

mat-ri-line-al /'mætrɪ'lɪnəl, 'mā-/ ► **adj.** of or based on kinship with the mother or the female line.

— **DERIVATIVES** **mat-ri-line-al-ly** **adv.**

— **ORIGIN** early 20th cent.: from Latin *mater*, *matr* 'mother' + **LINEAL**.

mat-ri-lo-cal /'mætrɪ'lɒkəl, 'mā-/ ► **adj.** of or denoting a custom in marriage whereby the husband goes to live with the wife's community.

— **DERIVATIVES** **mat-ri-lo-cal-i-ty** /-lɒ'kaləti/ **n.**

PRONUNCIATION KEY æ ago, up; ʌ over, fur; a hat; ā ate; ā car; e let; ē see; ɪ fit; ɪ by; ng sing; ō go; ō law, for; oī toy; ōō good; ōō goo; ou out; TH thin; TH then; ZH vision