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[LLat. *nescientia* < Lat. *nesciens*, *nescient-*, pr. part. of *nescire*, to be ignorant: *ne-*, not; see *ne* in App. + *scire*, to know.] —*nes-* *adj.* & *n.*

ness (nēs) *n.* A cape or headland. [ME *ness* < OE *ness*. See *nas-* in App.]

Ness, Loch A lake of N-central Scotland draining through the Ness River into the Moray Firth; reputed location of the Loch Ness Monster.

-ness *suff.* State; quality; condition; degree: *brightness*. [ME *-nes* < OE.]

Nes-sel-rode (nēs'al-rōd) *n.* A mixture of chopped and boiled chestnuts, maraschino cherries, candied fruits, and liqueur or rum, used in deserts. [After Count Karl Robert von Nesselrode (1780–1862), Russian politician.]

nest (nēst) *n.* 1a. A container or shelter made by a bird out of twigs, grass, or other material to hold its eggs and young. b. A similar structure made by fish, insects, or other animals. c. A place in which young are reared; a lair. d. A number of insects, birds, or other animals occupying such a place; a nest of hornets. 2. A place affording snug refuge or lodging; a home. 3a. A place or environment that fosters rapid growth or development, esp. of something undesirable; a hotbed. b. Those who occupy or frequent such a place or environment. 4a. A set of objects of graduated size that can be stacked together, each fitting within the one immediately larger. b. A cluster of similar things. 5. *Computer Science* A set of data contained sequentially within another. 6. A group of weapons in a prepared position. ♦ *v.* **nest·ed**, **nest·ing**, **nest·s** —*intr.* 1. To build or occupy a nest. 2. To create and settle into a warm and secure refuge. 3. To hunt for birds' nests, esp. in order to collect the eggs. 4. To fit together in a stack. —*tr.* 1. To place in or as if in a nest. 2. To put snugly together or inside one another. [ME < OE. See *sed-* in App.]

nest egg *n.* 1. An artificial or natural egg placed in a nest to induce a bird to continue to lay eggs in that place. 2. A sum of money put by as a reserve.

nest·er (nēs'tēr) *n.* 1. One, such as a bird, that nests. 2. *Western US* A squatter, homesteader, or farmer who settles in cattle-grazing territory.

nest·le (nēs'al) *v.* -tled, -tling, -tles —*intr.* 1. To settle snugly and comfortably. 2. To lie in a sheltered position. 3. To draw or press close, as in affection; snuggle. 4. *Archaic* To nest. —*tr.* 1. To snuggle or press contentedly. 2. To place or settle as if in a nest: *I nestled the puppy in my arms*. [ME *nestlen*, to make a nest < OE *nestlian* < *nest*, nest.] —*nest'ler* *n.*

nest·ling (nēs'tling, nēs'-) *n.* 1. A bird too young to leave its nest. 2. A young child.

Nes'tor (nēs'tār, -tōr') *n.* *Greek Mythology* 1. An elderly and wise counselor to the Greeks at Troy. 2. often *Nestor* A venerable and wise old man. [Gk. *Nestōr*.]

Nes-to·ri·an (nē-stōr'ē-an, -stōr'-) *adj.* 1. Of or relating to the theological doctrine, declared heretical in 431, that within Jesus were two distinct persons, divine and human, rather than a single divine person. 2. Of or relating to an Eastern church. Not in scholarly use. ♦ *n.* 1. An adherent of Nestorian doctrine. 2. A member of an Eastern church. Not in scholarly use. [After NES-TORIUS, accused of propounding this doctrine.] —*Nes-to'ri·an·ism* *n.*

Nes-to·ri·us (nē-stōr'ē-as, -stōr'-) *d.* A.D. 451. Syrian-born patriarch of Constantinople whose beliefs were declared heretical in 431.

net¹ (nēt) *n.* 1. An openwork fabric made of threads or cords that are woven or knotted together at regular intervals. 2. Something made of openwork fabric, esp.: a. A device for capturing birds, fish, or insects. b. A barrier against flying insects. c. A mesh for holding the hair in place. d. Something that entraps; a snare. e. A fine mesh fabric used as curtain or dress material or as the foundation for various laces. 3. *Sports* a. A barrier of meshwork cord or rope strung to divide a court in half, as in tennis. b. A ball that is hit into this meshwork barrier. c. The goal in soccer, hockey, and lacrosse. d. The cord meshwork attached to the hoop of a basket in basketball. 4. A meshed network of lines, figures, or fibers. 5. A radio, television, or telephone network. 6. *Computer Science* See *network* 4b. ♦ *tr.v.* **net·ted**, **net·ting**, **net·s** 1. To catch or ensnare in or as if in a net. 2. To cover, protect, or surround with or as if with a net. 3. *Sports* To hit (a ball) into the net. 4. To make into a net. [ME < OFr.] —*net'ter* *n.*

net² (nēt) *adj.* 1. *Business* a. Remaining after all deductions have been made, as for expenses: *net profit*. b. Remaining after tax is deducted: *net weight*. 2. Ultimate; final: *the net result*. ♦ *n.* 1. *Business* A net amount, as of profit or weight. 2. The main point; the essence. ♦ *tr.v.* **net·ted**, **net·ting**, **net·s** 1. To bring in or yield as profit. 2. To clear as profit. [ME, elegant, remaining after deductions < OFr., elegant, and < OItal. *netto*, remaining after deductions, both < Lat. *nitidus*, clean, elegant. See *NEAT*.]

Net *n.* The Internet.

Ne-tan·ya·hu (nē'tān-yā'hō, nē'tān-), Benjamin or Binyamin b. 1949. Israeli prime minister (1996–99). He became the leader of the conservative Likud party in 1993.

Neth. *abbr.* Netherlands

neth·er (nēth'ər) *adj.* Located beneath or below; lower or under. [ME < OE *neothera* < *neather*, down.]

Neth·er·lands (nēth'ər-lāndz) Often called **Hol·land** (hōl'ənd) A country of NW Europe on the North Sea. The kingdom of the Netherlands, proclaimed at the Congress of Vienna (1814–15), included Belgium until 1830. Constitutional cap. Amsterdam; seat of government, The Hague. Pop. 15,380,000. —*Neth·er·land'ish* (-lān/dish) *adj.*

Netherlands Antilles Formerly **Dutch West Indies**. An autonomous island territory of the Netherlands off the coast of Venezuela and in the S Windward Is. Cap. Willemstad, on Curaçao. Pop. 192,056.

neth·er·most (nēth'ər-mōst') *adj.* Farthest down; lowest.

neth·er·world also **nether world** (nēth'ər-würld') *n.* 1. The world of the dead. 2. The part of society engaged in crime and vice.

net·i·quette (nē'ti-kēt', -kīt) *n.* Etiquette practiced or advocated in electronic communication over a computer network. [Blend of (INTER)NET and ETIQUETTE.]

net·i·zen (nē'ti-zān) *n.* A person who is a frequent or habitual user of the Internet. [Blend of NET and CITIZEN.]

net·su·ke (nē'tsə-ke') *n.* *pl.* *netsuke* or *-kes* A small toggle, often in the form of a carved ivory or wood figure, used to secure a purse or container suspended on a cord from the sash of a kimono. [J.]

net·ting (nē'ting) *n.* 1. An openwork fabric; a net. 2. The act or process of making a net. 3. The act or process of fishing with a net.

net·tle (nēt'l) *n.* 1. Any of numerous plants of the genus *Urtica*, having toothed leaves and stinging hairs that cause skin irritation. 2. Any of various hairy, stinging, or prickly plants. ♦ *tr.v.* -tled, -tling, -tles 1. To sting with or as if with a nettle. 2. To irritate; vex. [ME < OE *netele*.]

nettles rash *See* *Hives*.

net·tle·some (nēt'l-səm) *adj.* Causing irritation or distress; vexatious.

net ton *n.* See *ton* 1.

net·work (nēt'wörk) *n.* 1. An openwork fabric or structure in which cords, threads, or wires cross at regular intervals. 2. Something resembling an openwork fabric or structure in form or concept, esp.: a. A system of lines or channels that cross or interconnect: a network of railroads. b. A complex interconnected group or system: an espionage network. c. An extended group of people with similar interests or concerns who interact for mutual assistance or support. 3a. A chain of radio or television broadcasting stations linked by wire or microwave relay. b. A company that produces the programs for these stations. 4a. A group or system of electric components and connecting circuitry. b. *Computer Science* A system of computers interconnected by telephone wires or other means in order to share information. ♦ *v.* -worked, -work·ing, -works —*tr.* 1. To cover with or as if with an openwork fabric or structure. 2. To broadcast over a radio or television network. 3. *Computer Science* To connect (computers) into a network. —*intr.* To interact or engage in informal communication with others for mutual assistance.

Ne-tza'-hual-cō-yōtl (nē-tsa'-wal-kō-yōt'l) A city of S-central Mexico, a suburb of Mexico City. Pop. 1,341,230.

Neu·châ-tel (noē'sha-tēl, nyoo'-, nee-shā-) *n.* Lake of a narrow lake of NW Switzerland near the French border.

Neuf·châ-tel (nōō'sha-tēl, noē'shā-) *n.* A soft white cheese made from cow's milk. [After *Neufchâtel*, a town of northeast France.]

Neu·mann (noi'män'), John von 1903–57. Hungarian-born Amer. mathematician who contributed to game theory, quantum mechanics, and functional analysis.

neume or **neum** (nōōm, nyōōm) *n.* A sign used in the notation of plainsong during the Middle Ages, used today in transcriptions of Gregorian chants. [ME, series of notes sung on one syllable < Med.Lat. *pneuma* < Gk., breath. See *PNEUMA*.] —*neu·mat'ic* (nōō-māt'ik, nyōō-) *adj.*

neur- *pref.* Variant of *neuro-*.

neur·ral (nōōr'al, nyōōr'-) *adj.* 1. Of or relating to a nerve or the nervous system. 2. Of, relating to, or located on the same side of the body as the spinal cord; dorsal. —*neur·ral·ly* *adv.*

neural arch *n.* A bony or cartilaginous arch that arises from the dorsal side of a vertebra to enclose the spinal cord.

neural crest *n.* The part of the ectoderm in a vertebrate embryo that lies on either side of the neural tube and develops into the cranial, spinal, and autonomic ganglia.

neur·al·gia (nōō-rāl'jā, nyōō-) *n.* Sharp paroxysmal pain extending along a nerve or group of nerves. —*neur·al'gic* *adj.*

neural network also **neural net** *n.* A real or virtual device, modeled after the human brain, in which several interconnected elements process information simultaneously, adapting and learning from past patterns.

neural tube *n.* A dorsal tubular structure in the vertebrate embryo formed by longitudinal folding of the neural plate and differentiating into the brain and spinal cord.

neu·ras·the·ni·a (nōōr'as-thē-nē-ā, nyōōr'-) *n.* A psychological disorder characterized by chronic fatigue and weakness, loss of memory, and generalized aches and pains. Not in scientific use. —*neu·ras'then'ic* (-thē'n'ik) *adj.* & *n.* —*neu·ras'then'ic·al·ly* *adv.*



nest
wasp nest



Benjamin Netanyahu



Netherlands