Second College Edition

The American Heritage Dictionary

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phlox

tible substances released as flame in combustion. [NLat. < Gk., neuter of *phlogistos,* inflammable < *phlogizein,* to set on fire < *phlox,* flame.]

phlog·o·pite (flŏg′ə-pīt′) *n.* A yellow to dark-brown mica, $KMg_3AlSi_3O_{10}(OH)_2$, used in insulation. [G. *Phlogopit* < Gk. *phlogōpos,* fiery-looking : *phlox,* flame + *ōps,* face.]

phlox (flŏks) *n., pl.* **phlox** or **phlox·es.** A plant of the genus *Phlox,* chiefly of North America, having lance-shaped leaves and clusters of white, red, or purple flowers. [NLat. *Phlox,* genus name < Lat. *phlox,* a kind of flower < Gk. wallflower, flame.]

phlyc·te·na also **phlyc·tae·na** (flĭk-tē′nə) *n., pl.* **-nae** (-nē). A small blister; vesicle. [Gk. *phluktaina* < *phluzein,* to boil over.]

-phobe *suff.* One that fears or is averse to a specified thing: *ailurophobe.* [< Gk. *-phobos,* fearing < *phobos,* fear.]

pho·bi·a (fō′bē-ə) *n.* **1.** A persistent, abnormal, or illogical fear of a specific thing or situation. **2.** A strong fear, dislike, or aversion. [NLat. < LLat. *-phobia,* -phobia.] **—pho′bic** (fō′bĭk) *adj.*

-phobia *suff.* An intense, abnormal, or illogical fear of a specified thing: *xenophobia.* [NLat. < LLat. < Gk. < *phobos,* fear.]

-phobic *suff.* **1.** Having a fear of or an aversion for: *xenophobic.* **2.** Lacking an affinity for: *lyophobic.* [Fr. *-phobique* < LLat. *-phobicus* < Gk. *-phobikos* < *-phobia,* -phobia.]

Pho·bos (fō′bŏs′, fōb′ŏs′) *n.* The larger and inner of the two satellites of the planet Mars. [Gk. *phobos,* fear.]

-phobous *suff.* -phobic.

phoe·be (fē′bē) *n.* Any of several small dull-colored North American birds of the genus *Sayornis.* [Poss. alteration of PEWIT.]

Phoe·be (fē′bē) *n.* **1.** *Gk. Myth.* The goddess Artemis. **2.** The moon. **3.** *Astron.* The ninth satellite of Saturn. [Lat. < Gk. *Phoibē* < *phoibos,* shining.]

Phoe·bus (fē′bəs) *n.* **1.** *Gk. Myth.* Apollo, the god of the sun. **2.** The sun. [Lat. < Gk. *Phoibos* < *phoibos,* shining.]

Phoe·ni·cian (fĭ-nĭsh′ən, -nē′shən) *n.* **1.** A native, inhabitant, or subject of ancient Phoenicia. **2.** The Semitic language of ancient Phoenicia. [ME *Phenecien* < OFr. < Lat. *Phoenicius* < Gk. *phoinix,* Phoenician, phoenix.] **—Phoe·ni′cian** *adj.*

phoe·nix also **phe·nix** (fē′nĭks) *n.* **1.** A bird in Egyptian mythology that consumed itself by fire after 500 years, and rose renewed from its ashes. **2.** A person or thing of unsurpassed excellence or beauty; paragon. **3. Phoenix.** A constellation in the Southern Hemisphere near Tucana and Sculptor. [ME *fenix* < OFr. < Lat. *phoenix* < Gk. *phoinix.*] **—phoe′nix-like′** *adj.*

phon- *pref.* Variant of **phono-.**

pho·nate (fō′nāt′) *v.* **-nat·ed, -nat·ing, -nates.** *—intr.* To utter speech sounds; vocalize. *—tr.* To utter (a sound). **—pho·na′tion** *n.*

phone[1] (fōn) *n. Ling.* An individual speech sound. [Gk. *phōnē,* sound.]

phone[2] (fōn) *Informal. —n.* **1.** A telephone. **2.** An earphone. *—v.* **phoned, phon·ing, phones.** *—intr.* To telephone. *—tr.* **1.** To telephone (someone). **2.** To impart (information or news, for example) by telephone. [Short for TELEPHONE.]

-phone *suff.* **1.** Sound: *allophone.* **2.** Device that receives or emits sound: *geophone.* [< Gk. *phōnē,* sound, voice.]

pho·ne·mat·ic (fō′nĭ-măt′ĭk) *adj.* Phonemic.

pho·neme (fō′nēm′) *n. Ling.* One of the set of the smallest units of speech, as the *m* of *mat* and the *b* of *bat* in English, that distinguish one utterance or word from another in a given language. [Fr. *phonème* < Gk. *phōnēma,* utterance < *phōnein,* to speak.]

pho·ne·mic (fə-nē′mĭk, fō-) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to phonemes. **2.** Of or pertaining to phonemics. **3.** Serving to distinguish phonemes or distinctive features. **—pho·ne′mi·cal·ly** *adv.*

pho·ne·mics (fə-nē′mĭks, fō-) *n. (used with a sing. verb). Ling.* The study and establishment of the phonemes of a language. **—pho·ne′mi·cist** (-mĭ-sĭst) *n.*

pho·net·ic (fə-nĕt′ĭk) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to phonetics. **2.** Representing the sounds of speech with a set of distinct symbols, each denoting a single sound: *phonetic spelling.* [Gk. *phōnētikos* < *phōnein,* to speak.] **—pho·net′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

phonetic alphabet *n.* **1.** A standardized set of symbols used in phonetic transcription. **2.** Any of various systems of code words for identifying letters in voice communication.

pho·ne·ti·cian (fō′nĭ-tĭsh′ən) also **pho·net·i·cist** (fə-nĕt′ĭ-sĭst) *n.* An expert in phonetics.

pho·net·ics (fə-nĕt′ĭks) *n. (used with a sing. verb).* **1.** The branch of linguistics dealing with the study of the sounds of speech, their production, combination, description, and representation by written symbols. **2.** The system of sounds of a particular language.

pho·ney (fō′nē) *adj. & n.* Variant of **phony.**

-phonia *suff.* Speech disorder of a specified kind: *dysphonia.* [Gk. *-phōnia,* sound < *phōnē.*]

phon·ic (fŏn′ĭk) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or having the nature of sound, esp. speech sounds. **—phon′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

phon·ics (fŏn′ĭks) *n. (used with a sing. verb).* **1.** The study or science of sound; acoustics. **2.** The use of elementary phonetics in the teaching of reading.

phono- or **phon-** *pref.* Sound; voice; speech: *phonology.* [< Gk. *phōnē,* sound, voice.]

pho·no·car·di·o·gram (fō′nə-kär′dē-ə-grăm′) *n.* A graphic record of heart sounds.

pho·no·car·di·o·graph (fō′nə-kär′dē-ə-grăf′) *n.* An instrument used in making phonocardiograms. **—pho′no·car′di·o·graph′ic** *adj.* **—pho′no·car′di·og′ra·phy** (-ŏg′rə-fē) *n.*

pho·no·gram (fō′nə-grăm′) *n.* A character or symbol, as in a phonetic alphabet, representing a word or phoneme in speech. **—pho′no·gram′ic, pho′no·gram′mic** *adj.* **—pho′no·gram′i·cal·ly, pho′no·gram′mi·cal·ly** *adv.*

pho·no·graph (fō′nə-grăf′) *n.* A machine that reproduces sound from a disc. **—pho′no·graph′ic** *adj.* **—pho′no·graph′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

pho·nog·ra·phy (fə-nŏg′rə-fē, fō-) *n.* **1.** The science or practice of transcribing speech by means of symbols representing elements of sound; phonetic transcription. **2.** A system of shorthand based on phonetic transcription. **—pho·nog′ra·pher, pho·nog′ra·phist** *n.*

pho·no·lite (fō′nə-līt′) *n. Mineral.* A volcanic rock composed principally of orthoclase and nepheline. [Fr. < G. *Phonolith* : Gk. *phōnē,* sound + Gk. *lithos,* stone.] **—pho′no·lit′ic** (fō′nə-lĭt′ĭk) *adj.*

pho·nol·o·gy (fə-nŏl′ə-jē, fō-) *n.* The science of speech sounds, including phonetics and phonemics. **—pho·no·log′ic** (fō′nə-lŏj′ĭk), **pho′no·log′i·cal** *adj.* **—pho′no·log′i·cal·ly** *adv.* **—pho·nol′o·gist** *n.*

pho·non (fō′nŏn′) *n. Physics.* The quantum of acoustic or vibrational energy, considered a discrete particle and used esp. in mathematical models to calculate thermal and vibrational properties of solids.

pho·no·re·cep·tion (fō′nō-rĭ-sĕp′shən) *n.* Perception of or response to sound waves. **—pho′no·re·cep′tor** (-tər) *n.*

pho·no·scope (fō′nə-skōp′) *n.* A device that produces a visible display of the mechanical properties of a sounding body, esp. of musical instruments.

pho·no·type (fō′nə-tīp′) *n.* **1.** A phonetic symbol used in printing. **2.** Text printed in phonetic symbols. **—pho′no·typ′ic** (fō′nə-tĭp′ĭk), **pho′no·typ′i·cal** *adj.* **—pho′no·typ′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

pho·no·typ·y (fō′nə-tī′pē) *n.* The practice of transcribing speech sounds by means of phonetic symbols. **—pho′no·typ′ist** *n.*

pho·ny also **pho·ney** (fō′nē) *Informal. —adj.* **-ni·er, -ni·est.** Not genuine or real; spurious; fake. *—n., pl.* **-nies** also **-neys. 1.** Something not genuine; a fake. **2.** A person who is an imposter; hypocrite. [Orig. unknown.] **—pho′ni·ly** *adv.* **—pho′ni·ness** *n.*

-phony *suff.* Sound: *telephony.* [Gk. *-phōnia* < *phōnē,* sound.]

phoo·ey (fōō′ē) *interj.* Used as an exclamation of disgust or contempt.

pho·rate (fôr′āt′, fōr′-) *n.* A toxic liquid, $C_7H_{17}O_2PS_3$, used as an insecticide. [(PHOS)PHOR(OUS) + (THION)ATE.]

-phore *suff.* Bearer; carrier: *chromatophore.* [< Gk. *-phoros,* bearing < *pherein,* to bear.]

-phoresis *suff.* Transmission: *electrophoresis.* [Gk. *phorēsis,* act of bearing < *phorein,* to carry, freq. of *pherein,* to bear.]

-phorous *suff.* Bearing: *gonophorous.* [Gk. *-phoros* < *pherein,* to bear.]

phos- *pref.* Light: *phosgene.* [< Gk. *phōs,* light.]

phos·gene (fŏs′jēn′, fōz′-) *n.* A colorless volatile liquid or gas, $COCl_2$, used as a poison gas and in making glass, dyes, resins, and plastics.

phosph- *pref.* Variant of **phospho-.**

phos·pha·tase (fŏs′fə-tās′, -tāz′) *n.* Any of numerous enzymes that catalyze the hydrolysis of esters to phosphoric acid and are distinguished by activity in carbohydrate and nucleotide metabolism and in bone formation. [PHOSPHAT(E) + -ASE.]

phos·phate (fŏs′fāt′) *n.* **1.** *Chem.* A salt or ester of phosphoric acid containing mainly pentavalent phosphorus and oxygen. **2.** A fertilizer containing phosphorus compounds. **3.** A carbonated beverage of water, flavoring, and a small amount of phosphoric acid. [Fr. < *acide phosphorique,* phosphoric acid.] **—phos·phat′ic** (fŏs-făt′ĭk) *adj.*

phosphate rock *n.* Any of various sedimentary rocks composed largely of apatite, used as fertilizer and as a source of phosphorous compounds.

phos·pha·tide (fŏs′fə-tīd′) *n.* Any of a group of lipid compounds, such as lecithin and cephalin, composed mainly of glycerol and phosphoric acid, and found in great abundance in plant and animal tissues with stored fats. [PHOSPHAT(E) + -IDE.]

phos·pha·tize (fŏs′fə-tīz′) *tr.v.* **-tized, -tiz·ing, -tiz·es. 1.** To change into a phosphate or phosphates. **2.** To treat with phosphate or phosphoric acid. **—phos′pha·ti·za′tion** *n.*

phos·pha·tu·ri·a (fŏs′fə-tŏŏr′ē-ə, -tyŏŏr′-) *n.* A condition in which excessive phosphates are discharged in the urine. [PHOSPHAT(E) + -URIA.] **—phos′pha·tu′ric** *adj.*

phos·phene (fŏs′fēn′) *n.* A luminous visual sensation experienced when the eyeball is pressed. [PHOS- + Gk. *phainein,* to show.]

phos·phide (fŏs′fīd′) also **phos·phid** (-fĭd) *n.* A compound of phosphorus and a more electropositive element.

phos·phine (fŏs′fēn′) also **phos·phin** (-fĭn) *n.* **1.** A colorless, spontaneously flammable poisonous gas, PH_3, having a

ă pat / ā pay / âr care / ä father / b bib / ch church / d deed / ĕ pet / ē be / f fife / g gag / h hat / hw which / ĭ pit / ī pie / îr pier / j judge / k kick / l lid, needle / m mum / n no, sudden / ng thing / ŏ pot / ō toe / ô paw, for / oi noise / ou out / ŏŏ took / ōō boot /

NLat. *Teleostomi,* group name (Gk. *teleos,* complete + *stoma,* mouth).]

te·lep·a·thy (tə-lĕp′ə-thē) *n.* Communication through means other than the senses, as by the exercise of mystical powers. **—tel′e·path′ic** (tĕl′ə-păth′ĭk) *adj.* **—tel′e·path′i·cal·ly** *adv.* **—te·lep′a·thist** *n.*

tel·e·phone (tĕl′ə-fōn′) *n.* An instrument that directly modulates carrier waves with voice or other acoustic source signals to be transmitted to remote locations and that directly reconverts received waves into audible signals, esp. such an instrument connected to others by wire. *—v.* **-phoned, -phon·ing, -phones.** *—tr.* **1.** To communicate with by telephone. **2.** To call (someone) on the telephone. **3.** To transmit by telephone. *—intr.* To communicate by telephone. **—tel′e·phon′er** *n.*

telephone book *n.* A directory of the names of telephone subscribers with corresponding addresses and telephone numbers.

telephone booth *n.* A small enclosure containing a public telephone.

telephone exchange *n.* Any of numerous central systems of switches and other equipment that establish connections between individual telephones.

telephone receiver *n.* The part of a telephone in which incoming electrical impulses are converted into sound.

tel·e·phon·ic (tĕl′ə-fŏn′ĭk) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to a telephone. **2.** Transmitted or conveyed by a telephone. **—tel′e·phon′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

te·leph·o·ny (tə-lĕf′ə-nē) *n.* **1.** The electrical transmission of sound between distant stations, esp. by radio or telephone. **2.** The technology and manufacture of telephone equipment.

tel·e·pho·to (tĕl′ə-fō′tō) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to a photographic lens or lens system used to produce a large image of a distant object. **2.** A telephotograph (sense 1).

tel·e·pho·to·graph (tĕl′ə-fō′tə-grăf′) *n.* **1.** A photograph made with a telephoto lens. **2.** A photograph transmitted and reproduced by telephotography. *—tr.v.* **-graphed, -graph·ing, -graphs. 1.** To photograph with a telephoto lens. **2.** To transmit by telephotography.

tel·e·pho·tog·ra·phy (tĕl′ə-fə-tŏg′rə-fē) *n.* **1.** The process or technique of photographing distant objects, using a telephoto lens on a camera. **2.** The technique or process of transmitting charts, pictures, and photographs over a distance. **—tel′e·pho′to·graph′ic** (-fō′tə-grăf′ĭk) *adj.*

tel·e·play (tĕl′ə-plā′) *n.* A play written or adapted for television.

tel·e·print·er (tĕl′ə-prĭn′tər) *n.* A teletypewriter.

tel·e·proc·ess·ing (tĕl′ə-prŏs′ĕs′ĭng, -prō′sĕs′-) *n.* Computer service by means of terminals remote from the central computer.

Tel·e·Promp·Ter (tĕl′ə-prŏmp′tər). A trademark for a device used in television to show an actor or speaker an enlarged line-by-line reproduction of a script, unseen by the audience.

tel·e·ran (tĕl′ə-răn′) *n.* An air-traffic control system in which the image of a ground-based radar unit is televised to aircraft in the vicinity so that a pilot may see his position in relation to other aircraft. [Orig. a trademark.]

tel·e·scope (tĕl′ə-skōp′) *n.* An instrument for collecting and examining electromagnetic radiation, esp.: **1.** An arrangement of lenses or mirrors or both that gathers visible light, permitting direct observation or photographic recording of distant objects. **2.** Any of various devices, such as a radio telescope, used to detect and observe distant objects by their emission, transmission, reflection, or other interaction with invisible radiation. *—v.* **-scoped, -scop·ing, -scopes.** *—tr.* **1.** To cause to slide inward or outward in overlapping sections, as the cylindrical sections of a small hand telescope. **2.** To make shorter or more precise; condense. *—intr.* To slide inward or outward in or as if in overlapping cylindrical sections. [NLat. *telescopium* or Ital. *telescopio,* both < Gk. *tēleskopos,* far seeing : *tēle,* at a distance + *skopos,* watcher.]

telescope

tel·e·scop·ic (tĕl′ə-skŏp′ĭk) *adj.* **1.** Of or pertaining to a telescope. **2.** Seen or obtained by means of a telescope: *telescopic data.* **3.** Visible only by means of a telescope: *a telescopic binary star.* **4.** Able to discern distant objects: *telescopic vision.* **5.** Extensible or compressible by or as if by the successive sliding of overlapping concentric tubular sections. **—tel′e·scop′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

Tel·e·sco·pi·um (tĕl′ə-skō′pē-əm) *n.* A constellation in the Southern Hemisphere near Pavo and Sagittarius. [NLat. < *telescopium,* telescope.]

te·les·co·py (tə-lĕs′kə-pē) *n.* The art or study of making and operating telescopes. **—te·les′co·pist** *n.*

tel·e·ster·e·o·scope (tĕl′ə-stĕr′ē-ə-skōp′, -stîr′-) *n.* A binocular telescope for stereoscopic viewing of distant objects.

tel·es·the·sia also **tel·aes·the·sia** (tĕl′ĭs-thē′zhə) *n.* Response to or perception of distant stimuli by extrasensory means. **—tel′es·thet′ic** (-thĕt′ĭk) *adj.*

tel·e·text (tĕl′ə-tĕkst′) *n.* An electronic communication system in which printed information is broadcast by television signal to sets equipped with a decoder.

tel·e·ther·mo·scope (tĕl′ə-thûr′mə-skōp′) *n.* An apparatus for indicating or recording the temperatures of distant or inaccessible locations.

tel·e·thon (tĕl′ə-thŏn′) *n.* A long, continuous television program, usually to raise funds for charity. [TELE- + (MARA)-THON.]

tel·e·tran·scrip·tion (tĕl′ə-trăn-skrĭp′shən) *n.* The transcription of television programs by means of a kinescope or video tape.

Tel·e·type (tĕl′ə-tīp′). A trademark for a teletypewriter.

tel·e·type·writ·er (tĕl′ə-tīp′rī′tər) *n.* An electromechanical typewriter that either transmits or receives messages coded in electrical signals carried by telegraph or telephone wires.

te·leu·to·spore (tə-lōō′tə-spôr′, -spōr′) *n.* A teliospore. [Gk. *teleutē,* termination (< *telos,* end) + SPORE.] **—te·leu′to·spor′ic** *adj.*

tel·e·vise (tĕl′ə-vīz′) *tr. & intr v.* **-vised, -vis·ing, -vis·es.** To broadcast by television. [Back-formation < TELEVISION.]

tel·e·vi·sion (tĕl′ə-vĭzh′ən) *n.* **1.** The transmission of visual images of moving and stationary objects, generally with accompanying sound, as electromagnetic waves and the reconversion of received waves into visual images. **2. a.** An electronic apparatus that receives electromagnetic waves and displays the reconverted images on a screen. **b.** The integrated audible and visible content of the electromagnetic waves received and converted by such an apparatus. **3.** The industry of broadcasting television programs. [Fr. *télévision* : *télé-,* tele- + *vision,* vision.]

tel·e·vi·sor (tĕl′ə-vī′zər) *n.* A television transmitter.

tel·ex (tĕl′ĕks′) *n.* **1.** A communication system consisting of teletypewriters connected to a telephonic network to send and receive signals. **2.** A message sent or received by such a system. *—tr.v.* **-exed, -ex·ing, -ex·es.** To send (a message) by telex. [TEL(ETYPEWRITER) + EX(CHANGE).]

tel·ic (tĕl′ĭk, tē′lĭk) *adj.* Directed or tending toward a goal or purpose; purposeful. [Gk. *telikos,* final < *telos,* end.]

te·li·o·spore (tē′lē-ə-spôr′, -spōr′) *n.* A thick-walled, blackish resting spore of rusts and smuts, from which the basidium arises. [TELI(UM) + SPORE.] **—te′li·o·spor′ic** *adj.*

te·li·um (tē′lē-əm) *n., pl.* **-li·a** (-lē-ə). A blackish, pustulelike structure formed on the tissue of a plant infected by a rust fungus, and giving rise to teliospores. [NLat. < Gk. *teleios,* complete < *telos,* end.] **—te′li·al** *adj.*

tell (tĕl) *v.* **told** (tōld), **tell·ing, tells.** *—tr.* **1.** To give a detailed account of; narrate. **2.** To communicate by speech or writing; express with words: *"When in doubt tell the truth"* (Mark Twain). **3.** To make known to; notify; inform. **4.** To make known; reveal: *tell fortunes.* **5.** To command; order: *Do what I tell you.* **6.** To assure in an emphatic way: *I tell you, he's an honest man.* **7.** To discover by observation; discern; identify. **8.** To say (a rosary). *—intr.* **1.** To give an account, enumeration, or description. **2.** To give evidence or indication. **3.** To have an effect or impact: *In this game every move tells.* ***—phrasal verbs.*** **tell off. 1.** To count and set apart, esp. aloud. **2.** *Informal.* To rebuke severely. **tell on.** *Informal.* To inform against; tattle on. ***—idiom.*** **all told.** Including everyone or everything; in all. [ME *tellen* < OE *tellan.*] **—tell′a·ble** *adj.*

tell·er (tĕl′ər) *n.* **1.** One who tells. **2.** A bank employee who receives and pays out money. **3.** A person appointed to count votes in a legislative assembly. **—tell′er·ship′** *n.*

tell·ing (tĕl′ĭng) *adj.* **1.** Having force or effect; striking. **2.** Full of special meaning; revealing: *a telling illustration of his selfishness.* **—tell′ing·ly** *adv.*

tell·tale (tĕl′tāl′) *n.* **1.** One who informs on another person; talebearer. **2.** Something that indicates or reveals information; sign. **3.** Any of various devices that indicate or register information, esp.: **a.** A time clock. **b.** A device indicating the position of a ship's rudder. **c.** A row of strips hung above a railroad track to warn an approaching train of a low clearance ahead. **4.** A metal strip, 2 or 2½ feet high, across the bottom of the front wall of a racquets or squash court above which the ball must be hit.

tellur- *pref.* Variant of **telluro-.**

tel·lu·ri·an (tĕ-lŏŏr′ē-ən) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or inhabiting the earth. *—n.* **1.** An inhabitant of the earth; a terrestrial. **2.** Variant of **tellurion.**

tel·lu·ric (tĕ-lŏŏr′ĭk) *adj.* **1.** Of or relating to the earth; terrestrial. **2.** Derived from or containing tellurium, esp. with valence 6.

telluric acid *n.* A white, crystalline inorganic acid, H_6TeO_4, used as a chemical reagent.

tel·lu·ride (tĕl′yə-rīd′) *n.* A binary compound of tellurium.

tel·lu·ri·on (tĕ-lŏŏr′ē-ŏn′) also **tel·lu·ri·an** (-ən) *n.* An instrument that shows how the movement of the earth on its axis and around the sun causes day and night and the seasons.

tel·lu·ri·um (tĕ-lŏŏr′ē-əm) *n. Symbol* **Te** A brittle, silvery-white metallic element, occurring naturally combined with gold and other metals, produced commercially as a by-product of the electrolytic refining of copper, and used to alloy stainless steel and lead, in ceramics, and, in the form of bismuth telluride, in thermoelectric devices. Atomic number 52; atomic weight 127.60; melting point 449.5°C; boiling point 989.8°C; specific gravity 6.24; valences 2, 4, 6.

telluro- or **tellur-** *pref.* **1.** Earth: *tellurian.* **2.** Tellurium: *tellurous.* [< Lat. *tellus, tellur-,* earth.]