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color wheel *n* (ca. 1893) : a circular diagram of the spectrum used to show the relationships between the colors

co-los-sal \kə-'lā-səl/ *adj* (1712) 1 : of, relating to, or resembling a colossus 2 : of a bulk, extent, power, or effect approaching or suggesting the stupendous or incredible (~ rock formations) 3 : of an exceptional or astonishing degree (<a ~ failure> *syn* see ENORMOUS — **co-los-sal-ly** \-sə-lē/ *adv*

col-os-se-um \kə-'lā-'sē-əm/ *n* [ML, fr. L, neut. of *colossus* colossus, *fr. colossus*] (ca. 1715) 1 *cap* : an amphitheater built in Rome in the first century A.D. 2 : COLISEUM

Co-los-sians \kə-'lā-shən/ *also* -shē-ən, -sē- / *n pl* but *sing in constr* : a letter written by St. Paul to the Christians of Colossae and included as a book in the New Testament — *see* BIBLE table

co-los-sus \kə-'lā-səs/ *n, pl co-los-si* \-'lā-sī/ [L, fr. Gk *kolossos*] (14c) 1 : a statue of gigantic size and proportions 2 : a person or thing of immense size or power

co-los-to-my \kə-'lā-tō-mē/ *n, pl -mies* [ISV *col-* + *-stomy*] (1888) : surgical formation of an artificial anus by connecting the colon to an opening in the abdominal wall

co-los-trum \kə-'lās-trəm/ *n* [L, beestings] (1577) : milk secreted for a few days after parturition and characterized by high protein and antibody content — **co-los-tral** \-trəl/ *adj*

col-our \kə-'lār/ *chiefly Brit var* of **COLOR**

colours *adj comb form* [L *-cola* inhabitant; akin to L *colere* to inhabit — more at **WHEEL**] : living or growing in or on (arenicolous)

col-por-tage \kəl-'pōr-tij, kəl-'pōr-'tāzh/ *n* (ca. 1846) : a colporteur's work

col-por-teur \kəl-'pōr-tər, kəl-'pōr-'tər/ *n* [F, alter. of MF *comporteur*, *fr. compor* to bear, peddle] (1796) : a peddler of religious books

col-po-scope \kəl-pə-'skōp/ *n* [Gk *kolpos* hollow, bosom, vagina, womb + *E -scope* — more at **GULF**] (1937) : a magnifying instrument designed to facilitate visual inspection of the vagina and cervix — **col-pos-co-py** \kəl-'pās-kə-pē/ *n*

colt \kɒlt/ *n* [ME, fr. OE; akin to Sw dial. *kult* half-grown pig] (bef. 12c) 1 *a* : FOAL; *esp* : a male foal *b* : a young male horse that is usu. not castrated and has not attained an arbitrarily designated age (as four years) 2 : a young untried person

col-tan \kɒl-'tən/ *n* [ISV *columbo-tantalite*, *fr. columbite* + *-o-* + *tantalite*] (1999) : a dull black ore that consists of a mixture of columbite and tantalite and is a minor source of tantalum

colt-ish \kɒl-'tish/ *adj* (14c) 1 *a* : not subjected to discipline *b* : FRISKY, PLAYFUL (~ antics) 2 : of, relating to, or resembling a colt (~ legs) — **colt-ish-ly** *adv* — **colt-ish-ness** *n*

colts-foot \kɒlts-'fʊt/ *n, pl coltsfoots* (14c) : any of various plants with large rounded leaves resembling the foot of a colt; *esp* : a perennial composite herb (*Tussilago farfara*) with yellow flower heads appearing before the leaves

col-u-brid \kəl-yə-'brad, kə-'lā-/ *n* [ultim. fr. L *colubra* snake] (1887) : any of a large cosmopolitan family (Colubridae) of chiefly nonvenomous snakes — **colubrid** *adj*

col-u-brine \-brīn/ *adj* (ca. 1528) 1 : of, relating to, or resembling a snake 2 : of or relating to colubrids : COLUBRID

co-lu-go \kə-'lū-(gə) / *n, pl -gos* [perh. fr. a language of the Philippines] (1702) : FLYING LEMUR

col-um-bar-i-um \kə-'lām-'ber-ē-əm/ *n, pl -ia* \-'ē-/ [L, lit., dove-cote, *fr. columba* dove] (1846) 1 : a structure of vaults lined with recesses for cinerary urns 2 : a recess in a columbarium

Col-um-bia \kə-'lām-bē-ə/ *n* [NL, fr. Christopher Columbus] (1775) : the United States

Col-um-bi-an \-bē-ən/ *adj* (1757) : of or relating to the United States or to Christopher Columbus

col-um-bine \kə-'lām-'bīn/ *n* [ME, fr. AF, fr. ML *columbina*, *fr. L*, *fem. of columbinus* like a dove, *fr. columba* dove; akin to OHG *holuntar* elder tree, Gk *kolymbos* a small grebe, *kelaínos* black] (14c) : any of a genus (*Aquilegia*) of plants of the buttercup family with irregular showy spurred flowers; *as* *a* : a red-flowered plant (*A. canadensis*) of eastern No. America *b* : a blue-flowered plant (*A. caerulea*) of the Rocky Mountains

Col-um-bine \-bīn, -bēn/ *n* [It *Colombina*] (1719) : the saucy sweetheart of Harlequin in comedy and pantomime

co-lum-bite \kə-'lām-'bīt, kə-'lām-/ *n* [NL *columbium*] (1805) : a black mineral consisting mostly of iron and niobium

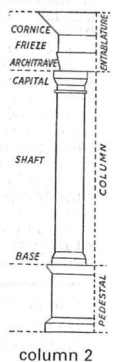
co-lum-bi-um \kə-'lām-bē-əm/ *n* [NL, fr. *Columbia*] (1801) : NIOBIUM

Co-lum-bus Day \kə-'lām-bəs-/ *n* (1892) 1 : October 12 formerly observed as a legal holiday in many states of the U.S. in commemoration of the landing of Columbus in the Bahamas in 1492 2 : the second Monday in October observed as a legal holiday in many states of the U.S.

col-u-mel-la \kəl-yə-'me-lə/ *n, pl -mel-lae* \-'me-(g)lē, -lī/ [NL, fr. L, dim. of *columna*] (ca. 1755) 1 : the central column or axis of a spiral univalve shell 2 *a* : the bony or partly cartilaginous rod connecting the tympanic membrane with the internal ear in birds and in many reptiles and amphibians *b* : the bony central axis of the cochlea — **col-u-mel-lar** \-'me-lər/ *adj*

col-umn \kə-'lām *also* kə-'lām/ *n* [ME *columne*, *fr. AF columpne*, *fr. L columna*, *fr. columna* top; akin to L *collis* hill — more at **HILL**] (15c) 1 *a* : a vertical arrangement of items printed or written on a page *b* : one of two or more vertical sections of a printed page separated by a rule or blank space *c* : an accumulation arranged vertically : STACK *d* : one in a usu. regular series of newspaper or magazine articles (gossip ~) 2 : a supporting pillar; *esp* : one consisting of a usu. round shaft, a capital, and a base 3 *a* : something resembling a column in form, position, or function (<a ~ of water> *b* : a tube or cylinder in which a chromatographic separation takes place 4 : a long row (as of soldiers) 5 : one of the vertical lines of elements of a determinant or matrix 6 : a statistical category or grouping (put another game in the win ~) — **col-umned** \-lænd, -yəmd/ *adj*

co-lum-nar \kə-'lām-nər/ *adj* (1728) 1 : of, relating to, resembling, or characterized by columns 2 : of, relat-



ing to, being, or composed of tall narrow somewhat cylindrical or prismatic epithelial cells

col-um-ni-a-tion \kə-'lām-nē-'ā-shən/ *n* [prob. fr. *intercolumniation*] (1592) : the employment or the arrangement of columns in a structure

col-um-nist \kə-'lām-nist, -lə-mist *also* kə-'lām-nist, -yə-mist/ *n* (1917) : one who writes a newspaper or magazine column — **col-um-nis-tic** \kə-'lām-nis-tik *also* kə-'lām-/ *adj*

col-za \kəl-'zə, kōl-/ *n* [F, fr. D *koolzaad*, *fr. MD coolsaet*, *fr. coole* cabbage + *saet* seed] (1712) 1 : 'RAPE 2 : RAPESEED

com *abbr* 1 comedy; comic 2 comma 3 commercial organization

com- or col- or con- *prefix* [ME, fr. AF, fr. L, with, together, thoroughly — more at **CO-**] : with : together : jointly — usu. *com-* before *b, p, or m* (<commingle>), *col-* before *l* (<collinear>), and *con-* before other sounds (<concentrate>)

co-ma \kō-'mā/ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *kōma* deep sleep] (1646) 1 : a state of profound unconsciousness caused by disease, injury, or poison 2 : a state of mental or physical sluggishness : TORPOR

coma *n, pl co-mae* \-mē, -mī/ [L, hair, fr. Gk *kōmē*] (1669) 1 : a tufted bunch (as of branches, bracts, or seed hairs) 2 : the head of a comet consisting of a cloud of gas and dust and usu. containing a nucleus 3 : an optical aberration in which the image of a point source is a comet-shaped blur — **co-mat-ic** \kō-'ma-tik/ *adj*

Co-ma Ber-e-ni-ces \kō-'mā-'ber-ə-'nī-(sēz)/ *n* [L (gen. *Comae Berenices*), lit., Berenice's hair] (1616) : a constellation north of Virgo and between Boötes and Leo

co-mak-er \kō-'mā-kər/ *n* (ca. 1934) : one that participates in an agreement; *specif* : one who stands to meet a financial obligation in the event of the maker's default

Co-man-che \kə-'man-chē/ *n, pl Comanche or Comanches* [AmerSp, fr. Southern Paiute *kimmancin* 'i Shoshones, strangers] (1806) 1 : a member of an American Indian people ranging from Wyoming and Nebraska south into New Mexico and northwestern Texas 2 : the Uto-Aztec language of the Comanche people

co-mate \kō-'māt, kō-/ *n* (1576) : COMPANION

co-ma-tose \kō-'mā-tōs, kə-/ *adj* [F *comateux*, *fr. Gk kōmat-, kōma*] (1755) 1 : of, resembling, or affected with coma 2 : characterized by lethargic inertness : TORPID (<a ~ economy>)

comb \kɒm/ *n* [ME, fr. OE *camb*; akin to OHG *kamb* comb, Gk *gomphos* tooth] (bef. 12c) 1 *a* : a toothed instrument used esp. for adjusting, cleaning, or confining hair *b* : a structure resembling such a comb; *esp* : any of several toothed devices used in handling or ordering textile fibers *c* : CURRYCOMB 2 *a* : a fleshy crest on the head of the domestic chicken and other domestic birds *b* : something (as the ridge of a roof) resembling the comb of a cock 3 : HONEYCOMB — **combed** \kɒmd/ *adj* — **comb-like** \kɒm-'lik/ *adj*

comb *v* (14c) 1 : to draw a comb through for the purpose of arranging or cleaning 2 : to pass across with a scraping or raking action 3 *a* : to eliminate (as with a comb) by a thorough going-over *b* : to search or examine systematically (police are ~ing the city) 4 : to use in a combing action ~ *vi* 1 *of a wave or its crest* : to roll over or break into foam 2 : to make a thorough search (<~ through the classified ads>)

comb *abbr* 1 combination; combined; combining 2 combustion

com-bat \kəm-'bat/ *n* [AF, fr. *combatre* to attack, fight, *fr. VL *com-battere*, *fr. L com- + battuere* to beat] (1546) 1 : a fight or contest between individuals or groups 2 : CONFLICT, CONTROVERSY 3 : active fighting in a war : ACTION (casualties suffered in ~)

com-bat \kəm-'bat, kəm-/ *vb -bat-ed or -bat-ted; -bat-ing or -bat-ting* *vi* (1564) : to engage in combat : FIGHT ~ *vi* 1 : to fight with : BATTLE 2 : to struggle against; *esp* : to strive to reduce or eliminate (<~ pollution> *syn* see **OPPOSE**)

com-bat \kəm-'bat/ *adj* (1825) 1 : relating to combat (<~ missions> 2 : designed or destined for combat (<~ boots> (<~ troops>)

com-bat-ant \kəm-'ba-'tənt *also* kəm-'ba-'tənt/ *n* (15c) : one that is engaged in or ready to engage in combat — **combatant** *adj*

combat fatigue *n* (1943) : post-traumatic stress disorder under wartime conditions (as combat) that cause intense stress — called also *war-time fatigue, shell shock*

com-bat-ive \kəm-'ba-tiv/ *adj* (1826) : marked by eagerness to fight or contend — **com-bat-ive-ly** *adv* — **com-bat-ive-ness** *n*

combe \kūm, kōm/ *also* **combe** or **coomb** \kūm/ *n* [ME *coumbe, cūmbe*, *fr. OE cumb*, of Celt origin; akin to W *cwm* valley] (bef. 12c) 1 *Brit* : a deep narrow valley 2 *Brit* : a valley or basin on the flank of a hill

comb-er \kō-'mər/ *n* (1665) 1 : one that combs 2 : a long curling wave of the sea

com-bi-na-tion \kəm-'bā-'nā-shən/ *n, often attrib* (14c) 1 *a* : a result or product of combining; *esp* : an alliance of individuals, corporations, or states united to achieve a social, political, or economic end *b* : two or more persons working as a team 2 : an ordered sequence; *as* *a* : a sequence of letters or numbers chosen in setting a lock; *also* : the mechanism operating or moved by the sequence *b* : a rapid sequence of punches in boxing *c* : any subset of a set considered without regard to order within the subset 3 : any of various one-piece undergarments for the upper and lower parts of the body — usu. used in pl. 4 : an instrument designed to perform two or more tasks 5 *a* : the act or process of combining; *esp* : that of uniting to form a chemical compound *b* : the quality or state of being combined — **com-bi-na-tion-al** \-shənəl, -shā-'nəl/ *adj*

combination shot *n* (ca. 1909) : a shot in pool in which a ball is pocketed by an object ball

com-bi-na-tive \kəm-'bā-'nā-tiv, kəm-'bī-'nā-/ *adj* (1855) 1 : tending or able to combine 2 : resulting from combination

com-bi-na-to-ri-al \kəm-'bā-'nā-'tōr-ē-əl, kəm-'bī-'nā-, -(g)bi-/ *adj* (1818) 1 : of, relating to, or involving combinations 2 : of or relating to the arrangement of, operation on, and selection of discrete mathematical elements belonging to finite sets or making up geometric configurations — **com-bi-na-to-ri-al-ly** \-ē-ə-lē/ *adv*

com-bi-na-tor-ics \-'tōr-iks, -'tār-/ *n pl* but *sing in constr* (1941) : combinatorial mathematics

com-bi-na-to-ry \kəm-'bī-'nā-'tōr-ē-/ *adj* (1647) : COMBINATIVE

com-bine \kəm-'bīn/ *vb* **combined; combining** [ME, fr. MF *combiner*, *fr. LL combinare*, *fr. L com- + bin* two by two — more at **BIN-**] *vt* (15c) 1 *a* : to bring into such close relationship as to obscure individual characters : MERGE (two companies combining forces) *b* : to