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instance of assimilating **b** : the state of being assimilated **2** : the incorporation or conversion of nutrients into protoplasm that in animals follows digestion and absorption and in higher plants involves both photosynthesis and root absorption **3** : change of a sound in speech so that it becomes identical with or similar to a neighboring sound <the usual ~ of \z\ to \sh\ in the phrase *his shoe*> **4** : the process of receiving new facts or of responding to new situations in conformity with what is already available to consciousness

as-sim-i-la-tion-ist \-sh(ə)-nist\ *n* (1899) : a person who advocates a policy of assimilating differing racial or cultural groups — **as-sim-i-la-tion-ism** \-shə-ni-zəm\ *n* — **as-sim-i-la-tion-ist** *adj*

as-sim-i-la-tive \ə-'si-mə-'lā-tiv, -lā-tiv\ *adj* (14c) : of, relating to, or causing assimilation

as-sim-i-la-to-ry \ə-'si-mə-lə-'tōr-ē, -tōr-ē\ *adj* (ca. 1847) : ASSIMILATIVE
As-sin-i-boin or **As-sin-i-boine** \ə-'si-nə-'boin\ *n*, *pl* -boin or -boins or **boine** or **-boines** [Ojibwa dial. *assinipwan*, lit., stone Sioux] (1804) : a member of an American Indian people orig. of the area between the upper Missouri and middle Saskatchewan rivers

as-sist \ə-'sist\ *vb* [MF or L; MF *assistere* to help, stand by, fr. L *assistere*, fr. *ad-* + *sistere* to cause to stand; akin to L *stare* to stand — more at STAND] *vt* (15c) : to give usu. supplementary support or aid to ~ *vi* **1** : to give support or aid <~ed at the stove> <another surgeon ~ed on the operation> **2** : to be present as a spectator <the ideal figures ~ing at Italian holy scenes> — Mary McCarthy

assist *n* (1597) **1** : an act of assistance : AID **2** : the action (as a throw or pass) of a player who enables a teammate to make a putout or score a goal; also : official credit given for such an action **3** : a mechanical device that provides assistance

as-sis-tance \ə-'sis-tən(t)s\ *n* (14c) : the act of assisting or the help supplied : AID (financial and technical ~)

as-sis-tant \ə-'tənt\ *n* (15c) : a person who assists : HELPER; also : a person holding an assistantship — **assistant** *adj*

assistant professor *n* (1851) : a member of a college or university faculty who ranks above an instructor and below an associate professor — **assistant professorship** *n*

as-sis-tant-ship \ə-'sis-tən(t)-ship\ *n* (1948) : a paid appointment awarded annually to a qualified graduate student that requires part-time teaching, research, or residence hall duties

as-size \ə-'siz\ *n* [ME *assise*, fr. OF, session, settlement, fr. *asseoir* to seat, fr. (assumed) VL *assidere*, fr. L *assidere* to sit beside, assist in the office of a judge, fr. *ad-* + *sedere* to sit — more at SIT] (14c) **1 a** : a judicial inquest **b** : an action to be decided by such an inquest, the writ for instituting it, or the verdict or finding rendered by the jury **2 a** : the former periodical sessions of the superior courts in English counties for trial of civil and criminal cases — usu. used in pl. **b** : the time or place of holding such a court, the court itself, or a session of it — usu. used in pl.

as-so-ci-ate \ə-'sō-shē-'āt, -sē-\ *vb* -at-ed; -at-ing [ME *associat* associated, fr. L *associatus*, pp. of *associare* to unite, fr. *ad-* + *sociare* to join, fr. *socius* companion — more at SOCIAL] *vt* (14c) **1** : to join as a partner, friend, or companion **2 obs** : to keep company with : ATTEND **3** : to join or connect together : COMBINE **4** : to bring together or into relationship in any of various intangible ways (as in memory or imagination) ~ *vi* **1** : to come or be together as partners, friends, or companions **2** : to combine or join with other parts : UNITE *syn* see JOIN

as-so-ci-ate \ə-'sō-shē-'āt, -sē-, -āt, -shat\ *adj* (14c) **1** : closely connected (as in function or office) with another **2** : closely related esp. in the mind **3** : having secondary or subordinate status (~ membership in a society)

as-so-ci-ate \same as 2\ *n* (1533) **1** : one associated with another : as **a** : PARTNER, COLLEAGUE **b** : COMPANION, COMRADE **2 a** : an entry-level member (as of a learned society, professional organization, or profession) **b** : EMPLOYEE, WORKER **3 often cap** : a degree conferred esp. by a junior college (~ in arts) — **as-so-ci-ate-ship** \-ship\ *n*

associate professor *n* (1822) : a member of a college or university faculty who ranks above an assistant professor and below a professor — **associate professorship** *n*

as-so-ci-a-tion \ə-'sō-sē-'ā-shən, -shē-\ *n* (1535) **1 a** : the act of associating **b** : the state of being associated : COMBINATION, RELATIONSHIP **2** : an organization of persons having a common interest : SOCIETY **3** : something linked in memory or imagination with a thing or person **4** : the process of forming mental connections or bonds between sensations, ideas, or memories **5** : the aggregation of chemical species to form (as with hydrogen bonds) loosely bound complexes **6** : a major unit in ecological community organization characterized by essential uniformity and usu. by two or more dominant species — **as-so-ci-a-tion-al** \-sh(ə)-nəl\ *adj*

association area *n* (ca. 1909) : an area of the cerebral cortex that functions in linking and coordinating the sensory and motor areas

association football *n* (1873) : SOCCER

as-so-ci-a-tion-ism \ə-'sō-sē-'ā-shə-ni-zəm, -sō-shē-\ *n* (1875) : a reductionist school of psychology that holds that the content of consciousness can be explained by the association and reassociation of irreducible sensory and perceptual elements — **as-so-ci-a-tion-ist** \-ā-sh(ə)-nist\ *n* — **as-so-ci-a-tion-ist-ic** \-ā-shə-'nis-tik\ *adj*

as-so-ci-a-tive \ə-'sō-shē-'ā-tiv, -sē-, -shə-tiv\ *adj* (1812) **1** : of or relating to association esp. of ideas or images **2** : dependent on or acquired by association or learning **3** : of, having, or being the property of producing the same result no matter which pair of elements next to each other in a mathematical expression is used to perform a given operation first if the elements in the expression are listed in a fixed order <addition is ~ since $(a + b) + c = a + (b + c)$ > — **as-so-ci-a-tive-ly** *adv* — **as-so-ci-a-tiv-i-ty** \-sō-shē-'ā-ti-vē-tē, -sē-, -shə-'ti-\ *n*

associative learning *n* (1957) : a learning process in which discrete ideas and percepts become linked to one another

associative neuron *n* (1935) : a neuron that conveys impulses from one neuron to another

as-soil \ə-'sōi(ə)\ *vt* [ME, fr. OF *assoldre*, fr. L *absolvere* to absolve] (13c) **1 archaic** : ABSOLVE, PARDON **2 archaic** : ACQUIT, CLEAR **3 archaic** : EXPIATE — **as-soil-ment** \-mənt\ *n*, *archaic*

as-so-nance \ə-'sō-nən(t)s\ *n* [F, fr. L *assonare* to answer with the same sound, fr. *ad-* + *sonare* to sound, fr. *sonus* sound — more at SOUND] (1727) **1** : resemblance of sound in words or syllables **2 a** : relatively close juxtaposition of similar sounds esp. of vowels **b** : repeti-

tion of vowels without repetition of consonants (as in *stony* and *holy*) used as an alternative to rhyme in verse — **as-so-nant** \-nənt\ *adj* or *n* — **as-so-nant-al** \ə-'sə-'nən-tl\ *adj*

as soon as *conj* (14c) : immediately at or shortly after the time that

as-sort \ə-'sōrt\ *vb* [MF *assortir*, fr. *a-* (fr. L *ad-*) + *sorte* sort] *vt* (15c) **1** : to distribute into groups of a like kind : CLASSIFY **2** : to supply with an assortment (as of goods) ~ *vi* **1** : to agree in kind : HARMONIZE **2** : to keep company : ASSOCIATE — **as-sort-er** *n*

as-sor-ta-tive \ə-'sōr-tə-tiv\ *adj* (1897) : being nonrandom mating based on like or unlike characteristics — **as-sor-ta-tive-ly** \-lē\ *adv*

as-sor-ed \ə-'sōr-təd\ *adj* (ca. 1797) **1** : suited esp. by nature or character <an ill-assorted pair> **2** : consisting of various kinds (~ chocolates)

as-sort-ment \ə-'sōrt-mənt\ *n* (1611) **1 a** : the act of assorting **b** : the state of being assorted **2** : a collection of assorted things or persons

as-suage \ə-'swāj also -'swāzh or -'swāzh\ *vt* **as-suaged**; **as-suag-ing** [ME *aswagen*, fr. OF *assouagier*, fr. (assumed) VL *assuaviare*, fr. L *ad-* + *suavis* sweet — more at SWEET] (14c) **1** : to lessen the intensity of (something that pains or distresses) : EASE **2** : PACIFY, QUIET **3** : to put an end to by satisfying : APPEASE, QUENCH *syn* see RELIEVE — **as-suage-ment** \-mənt\ *n*

as-sua-sive \ə-'swā-siv, -ziv\ *adj* (1708) : SOOTHING, CALMING

as-sume \ə-'süm\ *vt* **as-sumed**; **as-sum-ing** [ME, fr. L *assumere*, fr. *ad-* + *sumere* to take — more at CONSUME] (15c) **1 a** : to take up or in : RECEIVE **b** : to take into partnership, employment, or use **2 a** : to take to or upon oneself : UNDERTAKE **b** : PUT ON, DON **3** : to take control of **4** : to pretend to have or be : FEIGN (assumed an air of confidence in spite of her dismay) **5** : to take as granted or true : SUPPOSE **6** : to take over (the debts of another) as one's own — **as-sum-abil-i-ty** \-sü-mə-'bi-lə-tē\ *n* — **as-sum-able** \-sü-mə-bəl\ *adj* — **as-sum-ably** \-blē\ *adv*

syn ASSUME, AFFECT, PRETEND, SIMULATE, FEIGN, COUNTERFEIT, SHAM mean to put on a false or deceptive appearance. ASSUME often implies a justifiable motive rather than an intent to deceive (assumed an air of cheerfulness around the patients). AFFECT implies making a false show of possessing, using, or feeling (affected an interest in art). PRETEND implies an overt and sustained false appearance (pretended that nothing had happened). SIMULATE suggests a close imitation of the appearance of something (cosmetics that simulate a suntan). FEIGN implies more artful invention than PRETEND, less specific mimicry than SIMULATE (feigned sickness). COUNTERFEIT implies achieving the highest degree of verisimilitude of any of these words (an actor counterfeiting drunkenness). SHAM implies an obvious falseness that fools only the gullible (<shammed a most unconvincing limp>).

as-sum-ing *adj* (1695) : PRETENTIOUS, PRESUMPTUOUS

as-sump-sit \ə-'səm(p)-sət\ *n* [NL, he undertook, fr. L *assumere* to undertake] (1590) **1** : an express or implied promise or contract not under seal on which an action may be brought **2 a** : a former common-law action brought to recover damages alleged from the breach of an assumpsit **b** : an action to recover damages for breach of a contract

as-sump-tion \ə-'səm(p)-shən\ *n* [ME, fr. LL *assumption-*, *assumptio* taking up, fr. L *assumere*] (13c) **1 a** : the taking up of a person into heaven **b cap** : August 15 observed in commemoration of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary **2** : a taking to or upon oneself (the ~ of a new position) **3** : the act of laying claim to or taking possession of something (the ~ of power) **4** : ARROGANCE, PRETENSION **5 a** : an assuming that something is true **b** : a fact or statement (as a proposition, axiom, postulate, or notion) taken for granted **6** : the taking over of another's debts

as-sump-tive \ə-'səm(p)-tiv\ *adj* (1611) : of, relating to, or based on assumption

as-sur-ance \ə-'shür-ən(t)s\ *n* (14c) **1** : the act or action of assuring : as **a** : PLEDGE, GUARANTEE **b** : the act of conveying real property; also : the instrument by which it is conveyed **c chiefly Brit** : INSURANCE **2** : the state of being assured : as **a** : SECURITY **b** : a being certain in the mind (the puritan's ~ of salvation) **c** : confidence of mind or manner : easy freedom from self-doubt or uncertainty; also : excessive self-confidence : BRASHNESS, PRESUMPTION **3** : something that inspires or tends to inspire confidence (gave repeated ~s of goodwill) *syn* see CONFIDENCE

as-sure \ə-'shür\ *vt* **as-sured**; **as-sur-ing** [ME, fr. MF *assurer*, fr. ML *asscurare*, fr. L *ad-* + *securus* secure] (14c) **1** : to make safe (as from risks or against overthrow) : INSURE **2** : to give confidence to (<and hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall ~ our hearts> — 1 Jn 3:19 (AV)) **3** : to make sure or certain : CONVINC (glancing back to ~ himself no one was following) **4** : to inform positively (<I ~ you that we will do better next time>) **5** : to make certain the coming or attainment of : GUARANTEE (<worked hard to ~ accuracy>) *syn* see ENSURE

as-sured \ə-'shürd\ *adj* (15c) **1** : characterized by certainty or security : GUARANTEED (<an ~ market>) **2 a** : SELF-ASSURED **b** : SELF-SATISFIED **3** : satisfied as to the certainty or truth of a matter (rest ~ we got what we came for) — **as-sured-ness** \-shür-əd-nəs, -'shürd-\ *n*

assured *n*, *pl* **assured** or **assureds** (1755) : INSURED

as-sured-ly \ə-'shür-əd-lē\ *adv* (14c) **1** : without a doubt : CERTAINLY **2** : in an assured manner : CONFIDENTLY

as-sur-er \ə-'shür-ər\ or **as-sur-or** \ə-'shür-ər, ə-'shür-'ör\ *n* (1607) : one that assures : INSURER

as-sur-ent \ə-'sər-jənt\ *adj* [L *assurgens*, *assurgens*, prp. of *assurgere* to rise, fr. *ad-* + *surgere* to rise — more at SURGE] (1578) : moving upward : RISING; esp. : ASCENDANT *lb*

As-syr-i-an \ə-'sir-ē-ən\ *n* (15c) **1** : a native or inhabitant of ancient Assyria **2** : the dialect of Akkadian spoken by the Assyrians — **As-syrian** *adj*

As-syr-i-ol-o-gy \ə-'sir-ē-'ā-lə-jē\ *n* (1828) : the science or study of the history, language, and antiquities of ancient Assyria and Babylonia — **As-syr-i-ol-o-gi-cal** \-sir-ē-'ā-lə-jī-kəl\ *adj* — **As-syr-i-ol-o-gist** \-ā-lə-jist\ *n*

-ast *n* suffix [ME, fr. L *-astes*, fr. Gk *-astēs*, fr. verbs in *-azein*] : one connected with (ecdyasiast)

astar-board \ə-'stär-bərd\ *adv* (ca. 1630) : toward or on the starboard side of a ship (put the helm hard ~)