

THE
Oxford
American
Desk
Dictionary

Edited by
Frank Abate

New York Oxford
Oxford University Press
1998

Oxford University Press

Oxford New York

Athens Auckland Bangkok Bogota Bombay
Buenos Aires Calcutta Cape Town Dar es Salaam
Delhi Florence Hong Kong Istanbul Karachi
Kuala Lumpur Madras Madrid Melbourne
Mexico City Nairobi Paris Singapore
Taipei Tokyo Toronto Warsaw

and associated companies in
Berlin Ibadan

Copyright © 1998 by Oxford University Press, Inc.

This is a revised edition of the Oxford Essential Dictionary,
prepared by Oxford University Press for publication in 1998
by The Berkley Publishing Group.

Published by Oxford University Press, Inc.,
198 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10016

Oxford is a registered trademark of Oxford University Press.
All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced,
stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means,
electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise,
without the prior permission of Oxford University Press.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
The Oxford American desk dictionary.

p. cm.

Rev. ed. of Oxford essential dictionary: American edition
ISBN 0-19-512673-4 (alk. paper)

1. English language—Dictionaries. I. Abate, Frank, 1951–
II. Oxford essential dictionary.

PE1628.08615 1998

423—dc21

98-17237

CIP

This book includes some words that are, or are asserted to be, proprietary names or trademarks. Their inclusion does not imply that they have acquired for legal purposes a nonproprietary or general significance, nor is any other judgment implied concerning their legal status. In cases where the editor has some evidence that a word is used as a proprietary name or trademark this is indicated by the designation *trademark*, but no judgment concerning the legal status of such words is made or implied thereby.

3 5 7 9 8 6 4

Printed in the United States of America
on acid free paper

- defect, etc.) existing from birth. □ **con-gen'i-tal-ly** *adv.*
- con-ger** /kónggər/ *n.* large marine eel.
- con-ge-ries** /kənjéereez, kónjə-/ *n.* (*pl.* same) disorderly collection; mass or heap.
- con-gest** /kənjést/ *v.tr.* (esp. as **congested** *adj.*) affect with congestion. □ **con-ges'tive** *adj.*
- con-ges-tion** /kənjés-chən/ *n.* abnormal accumulation or obstruction.
- con-glom-er-ate** • *adj.* /kənglómərət/ gathered into a rounded mass. • *n.* /kənglómərət/ 1 heterogeneous mass. 2 group or corporation. • *v.* /kənglómərəyt/ collect into a coherent mass. □ **con-glom-er-a-tion** /-ráyshən/ *n.*
- con-grat-u-late** /kəngráchəlayt, -gráj-, kəng-/ *v.tr.* express pleasure at the good fortune or excellence of (a person). □ **con-grat-u-la-to-ry** /-lətáwree/ *adj.*
- con-grat-u-la-tion** /kəngráchəlayshən, -gráj-, kəng-/ *n.* 1 congratulating. 2 (*usu. pl.*) expression of this.
- con-gre-gate** /kónggrigəyt/ *v.* collect or gather into a crowd or mass.
- con-gre-ga-tion** /kónggrigáyshən/ *n.* 1 gathering of people, esp. for religious worship. 2 body of persons regularly attending a particular church, etc.
- con-gre-ga-tion-al** /kónggrigáyshənəl/ *adj.* 1 of a congregation. 2 (**Congregational**) of or adhering to Congregationalism, a Christian denomination of churches that are largely self-governing. □ **Con-gre-ga'tion-al-ist** *n.*
- con-gress** /kónggris/ *n.* 1 formal meeting of delegates for discussion. 2 (**Congress**) national legislative body of the US. □ **con-gres-sion-al** /kəngrëshənəl/ *adj.*
- con-gress-man** /kónggrismən/ *n.* (*pl. -men; fem. con-gress-woman, pl. -women*) member of the US Congress.
- con-gru-ent** /kónggrööənt, kəngröö-/ *adj.* 1 suitable; agreeing. 2 *Geom.* coinciding when superimposed. □ **con'gru-ence** *n.*
- con-gru-ous** /kónggrööəs/ *adj.* suitable; fitting. □ **con-gru'i-ty** *n.* **con'gru-ous-ly** *adv.*
- con-ic** /kónik/ *adj.* of a cone. □ **con'i-cal** *adj.* **con'i-cal-ly** *adv.*
- co-ni-fer** /kónifər, kô-/ *n.* any cone-bearing tree or shrub, *usu.* evergreen. □ **co-nif-er-ous** /kə-nifərəs/ *adj.*
- conj.** *abbr.* conjunction.
- con-jec-ture** /kənjékchər/ • *n.* formation of an opinion on incomplete information. • *v.* guess. □ **con-jec'tur-al** *adj.*
- con-join** /kənjóyn/ *v.* join; combine.
- con-joint** /kənjóynt/ *adj.* associated; conjoined. □ **con-joint-ly** *adv.*
- con-ju-gal** /kónjəgəl/ *adj.* pertaining to marriage. □ **con-ju-gal-i-ty** /-gálitē/ *n.* **con'ju-gal-ly** *adv.*
- con-ju-gate** • *v.* /kónjəgəyt/ 1 *tr.* *Gram.* give the different forms of (a verb). 2 *intr.* unite. *b* become fused. • *adj.* /kónjəgət, -gəyt/ joined together; fused.
- con-ju-ga-tion** /kónjəgáyshən/ *n.* *Gram.* system of verbal inflection. □ **con-ju-ga'tion-al** *adj.*
- con-junct** /kənjúŋkt/ *adj.* joined together; associated.

- con-junc-tion** /kənjúŋkshən/ *n.* 1 joining; connection. 2 *Gram.* connective word (e.g., *and, but, if*). 3 combination (of events or circumstances).
- con-junc-ti-va** /kónjúngktívə, kənjúŋktívə/ *n.* (*pl. con-junc-ti-vas or con-junc-ti-vae* /-vee/) *Anat.* mucous membrane of the eye. □ **con-junc-ti-val** *adj.*
- con-junc-tive** /kənjúŋktiv/ *adj.* 1 serving to join; connective. 2 *Gram.* of the nature of a conjunction.
- con-junc-ti-vi-tis** /kənjúŋktivítis/ *n.* inflammation of the conjunctiva.
- con-jure** /kónjər/ *v.* 1 *tr.* call upon (a spirit) to appear. 2 *tr.* evoke. 3 *intr.* perform seemingly magical tricks. □ **con-jure up** produce as if by magic.
- conk** /kɒŋk/ *v.tr. sl.* hit on the head, etc. □ **conk out** 1 (of a machine, etc.) break down. 2 (of a person) be exhausted and give up; faint.
- Conn.** *abbr.* Connecticut.
- con-nect** /kənékt/ *v.* 1 *a tr.* join (one thing with another). *b intr.* be joined or joinable. 2 *tr.* associate mentally or practically. 3 *intr.* (of a train, etc.) be timed such that passengers can transfer (to another train, etc.). 4 *tr.* put into communication. 5 *intr. colloq.* hit or strike effectively. □ **con-nec'tor** *n.*
- con-nec-tion** /kənékshən/ *n.* 1 connecting; being connected. 2 meeting point. 3 link, esp. by telephone. 4 connecting train, flight, etc. 5 (often in *pl.*) relevant or helpful acquaintance. 6 relation of ideas.
- con-nec-tive** /kənéktiv/ *adj.* serving or tending to connect, esp. of body tissue.
- conn-ing tow-er** /kóníŋg/ *n.* 1 superstructure of a submarine containing the periscope. 2 pilot-house of a warship.
- con-nive** /kənív/ *v.intr.* 1 (foll. by *at*) disregard or tacitly consent to (a wrongdoing). 2 conspire.
- con-nois-seur** /kónəsór/ *n.* expert judge in matters of taste.
- con-note** /kənót/ *v.tr.* imply in addition to the literal or primary meaning. □ **con-no-ta'tion** *n.* **con-no-ta-tive** /kónətáytiv, kənótatív/ *adj.*
- ¶ **Connote** means 'suggest': "Mother" connotes warmth, concern, and security. **Denote** refers to the literal meaning: "Mother" denotes a female who has given birth.
- con-nu-bi-al** /kəndóbeeəl, kənyóó-/ *adj.* of or relating to marriage. □ **con-nu'bi-al-ly** *adv.*
- con-quer** /kóngkər/ *v.tr.* 1 *a* overcome militarily. *b* be victorious. 2 overcome (a habit, challenge, etc.) by effort. □ **con'quer-a-ble** *adj.* **con'quer-or** *n.*
- con-quest** /kóngkwést/ *n.* 1 conquering; being conquered. 2 something won. 3 person whose affection has been won.
- con-quis-ta-dor** /kɒŋkwístədawr, kɒŋkéstə-/ *n.* (*pl. con-quis-ta-dores* /-dáwrez/ or **con-quis-ta-dors**) conqueror, esp. a 16th-c. Spanish conqueror of Mexico and Peru.
- con-san-guin-e-ous** /kónsanggwíneəs/ *adj.* descended from the same ancestor; akin. □ **con-san-guin-i-ty** *n.*
- con-science** /kónshəns/ *n.* moral sense of right and wrong. □ **in all conscience** by any reasonable standard.
- con-sci-entious** /kónshee-énshəs/ *adj.* diligent

lop-sid-ed /lɒpsɪdɪd/ *adj.* unevenly balanced.
 □ **lop'sid-ed-ly** *adv.* **lop'sid-ed-ness** *n.*

lo-quacious /ləkwəʃəs/ *adj.* talkative. □ **lo-quacious-ly** *adv.* **lo-quacious-ness** *n.* **lo-quac-i-ty** /-kwəʃɪteɪ/ *n.*

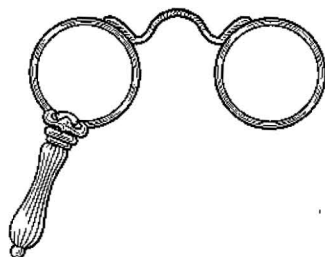
lord /lawrd/ • *n.* 1 master or ruler. 2 *hist.* feudal superior, esp. of a manor. 3 (in the UK) person with the title *Lord*, esp. a marquess, earl, viscount, or baron. 4 (*Lord*) (often prec. by *the*) God or Christ. • *int.* (*Lord*) expressing surprise, dismay, etc. □ **lord it over** domineer. **lord over** rule over. **Lord's Prayer** prayer taught by Jesus to his disciples. **Lord's Supper** the Eucharist.

lord-ly /lawrdlee/ *adj.* (**lord-li-er**, **lord-li-est**) 1 haughty; imperious. 2 suitable for a lord. □ **lord-li-ness** *n.*

lord-ship /lawrdʃɪp/ *n.* 1 (usu., *Lordship*) title used in addressing or referring to a lord, etc. 2 dominion; rule; ownership.

lore /lawr/ *n.* traditions and knowledge on a subject.

lorgnette /lawrnyɛt/ *n.* (in *sing.* or *pl.*) pair of eyeglasses or opera glasses held by a long handle.



LORGNETTE

lor-i-keet /lawrikeet, lɔr-/ *n.* small, brightly colored parrot.

lor-ri-s /lawris/ *n.* (*pl.* same) small, tailless, large-eyed nocturnal lemur of Asia.

lose /ləʊz/ *v.tr.* (*past* and *past part.* **lost** /lawst, lɒst/) 1 be deprived of or cease to have, esp. by negligence. 2 be deprived of (a person, pet, etc.) by death. 3 become unable to follow, grasp, or find. 4 let or have pass from one's control or reach. 5 be defeated in (a game, lawsuit, battle, etc.). 6 evade; get rid of (*lost our pursuers*). 7 cause (a person) the loss of (*will lose you your job*). 8 (in *passive*) disappear; perish. □ **be lost** (or **lose oneself**) *in* be engrossed in. **be lost on** be wasted on; not appreciated by. **be lost without** have great difficulty if deprived of. **get lost** *sl.* (usu. in *imper.*) go away. **lose one's cool** *colloq.* lose one's composure. **lose face** be humiliated. **lose heart** be discouraged. **lose one's nerve** become timid or irresolute. **lose out** (often foll. by *on*) *colloq.* not get a fair chance or advantage (in). **lose one's temper** become angry. **losing battle** effort in which failure seems certain. **lost cause** 1 enterprise, etc., with no chance of success. 2 person one can no longer hope to influence. □ **los'a-ble** *adj.* **los'er** *n.*

¶ See note at LOOSE.

loss /laws, lɒs/ *n.* 1 losing; being lost. 2 person, thing, or amount lost. 3 detriment or disadvantage resulting from losing. □ **at a loss** 1 (sold, etc.) for less than was paid for it. 2 puzzled; uncertain. **be at a loss for words** not know what

to say. **loss leader** item sold at a loss to attract customers.

lost *past* and *past part.* of LOSE.

lot /lot/ • *n.* 1 *colloq.* (prec. by *a* or in *pl.*) a large number or amount (*a lot of people; lots of fun*). 2 *colloq.* much (*a lot warmer*). 3 each of a set of objects used in making a chance selection. 4 this method of deciding (*chosen by lot*). 5 share or responsibility resulting from it. 6 destiny, fortune, or condition. 7 plot; allotment of land. 8 article or set of articles for sale at an auction, etc. □ **bad lot** person of bad character. **cast** (or **draw**) **lots** decide by lots. **a whole lot** *colloq.* very much.

¶ Avoid spelling two words as one: "alot," as in *I like skating alot*.

lo-thar-i-o /ləθáireeə/ *n.* rake or libertine.

lo-tion /lɒʃən/ *n.* medicinal or cosmetic liquid preparation applied externally.

lot-ter-y /lɒtəreɪ/ *n.* (*pl.* **-ies**) 1 game in which numbered tickets are sold and prizes are won by the holders of numbers drawn at random. 2 thing whose success is governed by chance.

lot-to /lɒtə/ *n.* 1 game of chance involving the drawing of numbers. 2 lottery.

lo-tus /lɒtəs/ *n.* 1 mythological plant inducing luxurious languor when eaten. 2 type of water lily. □ **lotus-eater** person given to indolent enjoyment. **lotus position** cross-legged position of meditation with the feet resting on the thighs.

loud /laʊd/ • *adj.* 1 strongly audible; noisy. 2 (of colors, etc.) gaudy; obtrusive. • *adv.* loudly. □ **out loud** aloud. **loud'ly** *adv.* **loud'ness** *n.*

loud-mouth /laʊdməʊθ/ *n.* *colloq.* noisily self-assertive, vociferous person. □ **loud'mouthed** *adj.*

loud-speak-er /laʊdspíekər/ *n.* apparatus that converts electrical impulses into sound, esp. music and voice.

Lou Gehrig's dis-ease /ləʊ gérɪgz/ *n.* = AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS.

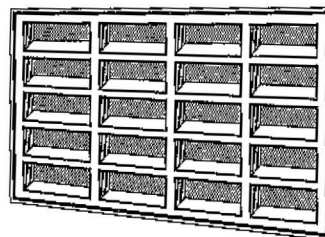
lounge /laʊnj/ • *v.intr.* 1 recline comfortably; loil. 2 stand or move about idly. • *n.* 1 place for lounging. 2 waiting room. 3 sofa. □ **lounge lizard** *colloq.* person who frequents bars, etc. □ **lounge'er** *n.*

louse /laʊs/ *n.* 1 (*pl.* **lice** /lɪs/) parasitic insect. 2 *sl.* (*pl.* **lous-es**) contemptible person. □ **louse up** *sl.* botch.

lous-y /laʊweɪ/ *adj.* (**lous-i-er**, **lous-i-est**) 1 infested with lice. 2 *colloq.* very bad; disgusting. 3 *colloq.* well supplied; teeming (with). □ **lous'i-ly** *adv.* **lous'i-ness** *n.*

lout /laʊt/ *n.* boorish person. □ **lout'ish** *adj.*

lou-ver /ləʊvər/ *n.* each of a set of overlapping slats that admit air and light and exclude rain. □ **lou'vered** *adj.*



LOUVER

ant. **2** medical graduate engaged in specialized practice under supervision in a hospital. • *adj.* **1** residing; in residence. **2** having quarters at one's workplace, etc. (*resident housekeeper*). **3** located in; inherent. **4** (of birds, etc.) nonmigratory.

res-i-den-tial /rézidénshəl/ *adj.* **1** suitable for or occupied by private houses (*residential area*). **2** pertaining to or used as a residence (*residential hotel*). □ **res-i-den-tial-ly** *adv.*

res-idual /rizidjool/ • *adj.* **1** left as a residue. **2** *Math.* resulting from subtraction. • *n.* **1** residual quantity. **2** (in *pl.*) pay to performers for reruns of taped shows, etc. □ **res-idual-ly** *adv.*

res-i-due /rézidoo, -dyoo/ *n.* what is left over or remains; remainder.

re-sign /rizín/ *v.* **1** *intr.* give up office, one's employment, etc. **2** *tr.* surrender; hand over (a right, charge, task, etc.). **3** *refl.* reconcile (oneself) to the inevitable.

res-ig-na-tion /rézignáyshən/ *n.* **1** resigning, esp. from one's job or office. **2** document, etc., conveying this. **3** uncomplaining endurance of a sorrow or difficulty.

re-signed /rizínd/ *adj.* having resigned oneself; submissive, acquiescent. □ **re-signed-ly** /-zí-nidlee/ *adv.* **re-sign-ed-ness** *n.*

re-sil-i-ent /rizilyənt/ *adj.* **1** resuming its original shape after bending, compression, etc. **2** readily recovering from a setback. □ **re-sil-i-ence** *n.* **re-sil-i-ent-ly** *adv.*

res-in /rézin/ *n.* **1** adhesive substance secreted by some plants. **2** (in full **syn-thet'ic res'in**) organic compound made by polymerization, etc., and used in plastics, etc. □ **res'in-ous** *adj.*

re-sist /rizíst/ • *v.* **1** *tr.* withstand the action or effect of. **2** *tr.* abstain from (pleasure, temptation, etc.). **3** *tr.* strive against; refuse to comply with (*resist arrest*). **4** *intr.* offer opposition; refuse to comply. • *n.* protective coating of a resistant substance. □ **re-sist'ant** *adj.* **re-sist'er** *n.* **re-sist'ible** *adj.* **re-sist-i-bil'i-ty** *n.*

re-sis-tance /rizístəns/ *n.* **1** resisting; refusal to comply. **2** power of resisting (*resistance to wear and tear*). **3** ability to withstand disease. **4** impeding or stopping effect exerted by one thing on another. **5** *Physics* property or measure of hindering the conduction of electricity, heat, etc. **6** (in full **re-sist'ance move'ment**) secret organization resisting authority, esp. in an occupied country.

re-sis-tor /rizístər/ *n.* *Electr.* device having resistance to the passage of an electrical current.

res-o-lute /rézəloot/ *adj.* determined; firm of purpose. □ **res-o-lute-ly** *adv.* **res-o-lute-ness** *n.*

res-o-lu-tion /rézəlóoshən/ *n.* **1** resolute temper or character. **2** thing resolved on; intention (*New Year's resolutions*). **3** formal expression of opinion or intention by a legislative body, etc. **4** solving of a problem, doubt, or question. **5** separation into components. **6** optical clarity or sharpness.

re-solve /rizólv/ • *v.* **1** *intr.* make up one's mind; decide firmly. **2** *tr.* (of an assembly or meeting) pass a resolution by vote. **3** *intr.* & *tr.* separate or cause to separate into constituent parts. **4** *tr.* solve; explain; settle (doubt, argument, etc.). • *n.* firm mental decision or intention. □ **re-solv'a-ble** *adj.* **re-solv-a-bil'i-ty** *n.* **re-solv'er** *n.*

re-solved /rizólvd/ *adj.* resolute; determined.

res-o-nant /rézonənt/ *adj.* **1** (of sound) echoing; resounding. **2** (of a body, room, etc.) tending to reinforce or prolong sounds. **3** (of a place) resounding. □ **res'o-nance** *n.* **res'o-nant-ly** *adv.*

res-o-nate /rézanayt/ *v.intr.* produce or show resonance; resound. □ **res'o-na-tor** *n.*

re-sorb /risáwr, -záwr/ *v.tr.* absorb again. □ **re-sorb'ence** *n.* **re-sorb'ent** *adj.* **re-sorp-tion** /-sáwrpshən, -záwrp-/ *n.*

re-sort /rizáwrt/ • *n.* **1** place frequented for recreation, health, etc. **2** a thing to which one has recourse; expedient; measure. **3** recourse (to). • *v.intr.* turn (to) as an expedient (*resorted to threats*). □ **as a last resort** when all else has failed.

re-sound /rizównd/ *v.intr.* **1** (of a place) ring or echo. **2** *intr.* produce echoes; go on sounding.

re-sound-ing /rizównding/ *adj.* **1** in senses of **RE-SOUND**. **2** unmistakable; emphatic (*a resounding success*). □ **re-sound-ing-ly** *adv.*

re-source /réesawrs, -záwrs, risáwrs, -záwrs/ *n.* **1** expedient or device. **2** (usu. in *pl.*) means available; asset. **3** (in *pl.*) country's collective wealth. **4** (often in *pl.*) skill in devising expedients. □ **re-source'ful** *adj.* **re-source'ful-ly** *adv.* **re-source'ful-ness** *n.*

re-spect /rispékt/ • *n.* **1** deferential esteem felt or shown toward a person or quality. **2** heed or regard. **3** aspect, particular, etc. **4** reference; relation (*morality that has no respect to religion*). **5** (in *pl.*) greetings; polite messages (*give them my respects*). • *v.tr.* **1** regard with deference, esteem, or honor. **2** a avoid interfering with, harming, etc. **b** treat with consideration. □ **with all due respect** mollifying formula preceding an expression of one's disagreement with another's views. **with respect to** regarding. □ **re-spect'er** *n.*

re-spect-a-ble /rispéktəbəl/ *adj.* **1** decent and proper in appearance and behavior. **2** fairly competent (*a respectable effort*). **3** reasonably good in condition, appearance, number, size, etc. (*a respectable salary*). □ **re-spect-a-bil'i-ty** *n.* **re-spect'a-bly** *adv.*

re-spect-ful /rispéktföö/ *adj.* showing deference (*stood at a respectful distance*). □ **re-spect'ful-ly** *adv.* **re-spect'ful-ness** *n.*

re-spect-ing /rispékting/ *prep.* with regard to; concerning.

re-spec-tive /rispéktiv/ *adj.* concerning or appropriate to each of several individually (*go to your respective places*). □ **re-spec-tive-ly** *adv.*

res-pi-ra-tion /réspiráyshən/ *n.* **1** a breathing. **b** single breath. **2** *Biol.* in organisms, absorption of oxygen and release of energy and carbon dioxide.

res-pi-ra-tor /réspiraytər/ *n.* **1** apparatus worn over the face to purify, warm, etc., inhaled air. **2** *Med.* apparatus for maintaining artificial respiration.

re-spire /rispítr/ *v.* **1** *tr.* & *intr.* breathe. **2** *intr.* inhale and exhale air. **3** *intr.* (of a plant) carry out respiration. □ **res-pl-ra-to-ry** /résperətawree, rispítrə-/ *adj.*

res-pite /réspit/ *n.* **1** interval of rest or relief. **2** delay permitted before discharge of obligation or suffering of penalty.

re-splen-dent /rispléndənt/ *adj.* brilliant; dazzlingly or gloriously bright. □ **re-splen'dence** *n.* **re-splen'den-cy** *n.* **re-splen'dent-ly** *adv.*

re-spond /rispónd/ *v.* **1** *intr.* answer; reply. **2** *intr.*

sleep-walk /sleɪpwɔ:k/ *v. intr.* walk or perform other actions while asleep. □ **sleep-walk-er** *n.* **sleep-walk-ing** *n.*

sleep-y /sleepeɪ/ *adj.* (**sleep-i-er**, **sleep-i-est**) 1 drowsy; ready for sleep. 2 quiet; inactive. □ **sleep-i-ly** *adv.* **sleep-i-ness** *n.*

sleet /sleet/ • *n.* snow and rain falling together. • *v. intr.* (prec. by *it* as subject) sleet falls (*it is sleeting*). □ **sleet-y** *adj.*

sleeve /sleev/ *n.* 1 part of a garment that covers an arm. 2 cover of a phonograph record. 3 tube enclosing a rod or smaller tube. □ **up one's sleeve** concealed but in reserve. □ **sleeved** *adj.* (also in *comb.*). **sleeve-less** *adj.*

sleigh /sley/ • *n.* = SLED. • *v. intr.* travel on a sleigh.

sleight /slīt/ *n.* □ **sleight of hand** 1 dexterity, esp. in conjuring or fencing. 2 display of dexterity.

slender /sléndər/ *adj.* (**slen-der-er**, **slen-der-est**) 1 a of small girth or breadth. *b* gracefully thin. 2 relatively small or scanty; inadequate. □ **slen-der-ly** *adv.* **slen-der-ness** *n.*

slept *past and past part.* of SLEEP.

slouth /slóuth/ *colloq. n.* detective.

slew¹ /slō/ (also **slue**) • *v.* turn or swing forcibly to a new position. • *n.* such a change of position.

slew² *past* of SLAY.

slew³ /slō/ *n. colloq.* large number or quantity.

slice /slīs/ • *n.* 1 thin piece or wedge cut off or out. 2 share; part. 3 *Golf & Tennis* slicing stroke. • *v.* 1 *tr.* cut into slices. 2 *tr.* cut (a piece) off. 3 *intr.* cut (as) with a knife. 4 *tr.* a *Golf* strike (the ball) so that it deviates away from the striker. *b* (in other sports) propel (the ball) forward at an angle. □ **slice-a-ble** *adj.* **slice** *n.* (also in *comb.*).

slick /slik/ • *adj. colloq.* 1 a skillful or efficient. *b* superficially or pretentiously smooth and dexterous. *c* glib. 2 a sleek; smooth. *b* slippery. • *n.* patch of oil, etc., esp. on the sea. • *v. tr. colloq.* 1 make sleek or smart. 2 flatten (one's hair, etc.). □ **slick-ly** *adv.* **slick-ness** *n.*

slick-er /slikər/ *n.* 1 *colloq. usu. derog.* a plausible rogue. *b* (in full **city slicker**) smart and sophisticated city dweller. 2 raincoat of smooth material.

slide /slid/ • *v.* (*past and past part.* **slid** /slid/) 1 *a intr.* move along a smooth surface with continuous contact. *b tr.* cause to do this (*slide the drawer into place*). 2 *intr.* move quietly; glide. • *n.* 1 a act or instance of sliding. *b* decline. 2 inclined plane down which children, goods, etc., slide. 3 a piece of glass holding an object for a microscope. *b* mounted transparency viewed with a projector. □ **let things slide** be negligent; allow deterioration. **slide rule** ruler with a sliding central strip, graduated logarithmically for making rapid calculations. **sliding scale** scale of fees, taxes, wages, etc., that varies according to some standard. □ **slid-er** *n.*

slight /slīt/ • *adj.* 1 a inconsiderable; of little significance. *b* barely perceptible. *c* inadequate; scanty. 2 slender; frail-looking. • *v. tr.* treat disrespectfully; neglect. • *n.* failure to show due respect. □ **slight-ing-ly** *adv.* **slight-ish** *adj.* **slight-ly** *adv.* **slight-ness** *n.*

slim /slim/ • *adj.* (**slim-mer**, **slim-mest**) 1 a of

long, narrow shape. *b* gracefully thin. 2 slight; insufficient. • *v.* (**slimmed**, **slim-ming**) 1 *intr.* become slimmer by dieting, exercise, etc. 2 *tr.* make slim or slimmer. □ **slim-ly** *adv.* **slim-mer** *n.* **slim-ming** *n.* & *adj.* **slim-ish** *adj.* **slim-ness** *n.*

slime /slīm/ • *n.* thick slippery or sticky substance. • *v. tr.* cover with slime. □ **slim-i-ly** *adv.* **slim-i-ness** *n.* **slim-y** *adj.* (**slim-i-er**, **slim-i-est**).

sling /sling/ • *n.* 1 strap, etc., to support or raise a hanging weight. 2 bandage looped around the neck to support an injured arm. 3 straplike device for flinging a stone or other missile. • *v. tr.* (*past and past part.* **slung** /slung/) 1 *colloq.* throw. 2 suspend with a sling.

sling-shot /slingshot/ *n.* forked stick, etc., with elastic for shooting stones, etc.

slink /slink/ *v. intr.* (*past and past part.* **slunk** /slung/) move in a stealthy or guilty manner.

slink-y /slingkee/ *adj.* (**slink-i-er**, **slink-i-est**) 1 stealthy. 2 (of a garment) close-fitting and flowing; sinuous. 3 gracefully slender. □ **slink-i-ly** *adv.* **slink-i-ness** *n.*

slip¹ /slip/ • *v.* (**slipped**, **slip-ping**) 1 *intr.* slide unintentionally, esp. for a short distance; lose one's footing or balance. 2 *intr.* go or move with a sliding motion. 3 *intr.* escape by being slippery or hard to hold. 4 *intr.* a go unobserved or quietly. *b* (foll. by *by*) (of time) go by rapidly or unnoticed. 5 *intr.* a make a careless or casual mistake. *b* fall below standard. 6 *tr.* (foll. by *on*, *off*) pull (a garment) hastily on or off. 7 *tr.* escape from; give the slip to. • *n.* 1 act or instance of slipping. 2 accidental or slight error. 3 a petticoat. *b* pillowcase. 4 bay in a dock for mooring a vessel. □ **let slip** utter inadvertently. **slip-on** *adj.* (of shoes or clothes) that can be easily slipped on and off. • *n.* slip-on shoe or garment. **slipped disk** disk between vertebrae. **slip up** *colloq.* make a mistake.

slip² /slip/ *n.* 1 small piece of paper. 2 cutting taken from a plant for grafting or planting; scion. □ **slip of** a small and slim.

slip³ /slip/ *n.* clay in a creamy mixture with water, for decorating earthenware.

slip-cover /slipkəvər/ • *n.* 1 removable fabric covering for usu. upholstered furniture. 2 jacket or slipcase for a book. • *v. tr.* cover with a slipcover.

slip-knot /slipnot/ *n.* knot that can be undone by a pull.

slip-page /slipij/ *n.* act, amount, or instance of slipping.

slip-per /slipər/ *n.* 1 light, loose, comfortable indoor shoe. 2 light slip-on shoe for dancing, etc.

slip-per-y /slipəree/ *adj.* 1 difficult to hold. 2 (of a surface) causing sliding or slipping by its smoothness or slickness. 3 unreliable; unscrupulous. □ **slip-per-i-ness** *n.*

slipshod /slipshod/ *adj.* 1 careless; unsystematic. 2 slovenly.

slip-up /slipep/ *n.* mistake; blunder.

slit /slīt/ • *n.* straight, narrow incision or opening. • *v. tr.* (**slit-ting**; *past and past part.* **slit**) 1 make a slit in. 2 cut into strips. □ **slit-ter** *n.*

slith-er /slithər/ • *v. intr.* slide unsteadily. • *n.* instance of slithering. □ **slith-ery** *adj.*

sliv-er /slivər/ • *n.* long, thin piece cut or split off; splinter. • *v.* 1 break off as a sliver. 2 break or form into slivers.

slob /slob/ *n. colloq.* lazy, untidy person. □ **slob-bish** *adj.*