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of the English Language

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re·ceipt·or (ri sē′tər), *n.* **1.** a person who receipts. **2.** *Law.* a person to whom attached property is delivered for safekeeping in return for a bond to produce it when the litigation ends. [1805–15, *Amer.*; RECEIPT + -OR²]

re·ceiv·a·ble (ri sē′və bəl), *adj.* **1.** fit for acceptance; acceptable. **2.** awaiting receipt of payment: *accounts receivable.* **3.** capable of being received. —*n.* **4. receivables,** business assets in the form of obligations due from others. [1350–1400; RECEIVE + -ABLE; r. ME *rescevable* < AF *receivable* (OF *recevable*)] —**re·ceiv′a·bil′i·ty, re·ceiv′a·ble·ness,** *n.*

re·ceive (ri sēv′), *v.*, **-ceived, -ceiv·ing.** —*v.t.* **1.** to take into one's possession (something offered or delivered): *to receive many gifts.* **2.** to have (something) bestowed, conferred, etc.: *to receive an honorary degree.* **3.** to have delivered or brought to one: *to receive a letter.* **4.** to get or be informed of: *to receive instructions; to receive news.* **5.** to be burdened with; sustain: *to receive a heavy load.* **6.** to hold, bear, or contain: *The nut receives a bolt and a washer. The plaster receives the impression of the mold.* **7.** to take into the mind; apprehend mentally: *to receive an idea.* **8.** to accept from another by hearing or listening: *A priest received his confession.* **9.** to meet with; experience: *to receive attention.* **10.** to suffer the injury of: *He received a terrific blow on the forehead.* **11.** to be at home to (visitors): *They received their neighbors on Sunday.* **12.** to greet or welcome (guests, visitors, etc.) upon arriving: *They received us at the front door.* **13.** to admit (a person) to a place: *The butler received him and asked him to wait in the drawing room.* **14.** to admit into an organization, membership, etc.: *to receive someone into the group.* **15.** to accept as authoritative, valid, true, or approved: *a principle universally received.* **16.** to react to in the manner specified: *to receive a proposal with contempt; She received the job offer with joy.* —*v.i.* **17.** to receive something. **18.** to receive visitors or guests. **19.** *Radio.* to convert incoming electromagnetic waves into the original signal. **20.** to receive the Eucharist: *He receives every Sunday.* [1250–1300; ME *receven* < ONF *receivre* < L *recipere*, equiv. to *re-* RE- + *-cipere*, comb. form of *capere* to take]
—**Syn. 11.** admit, entertain, welcome. —**Ant. 1.** give.

re·ceived (ri sēvd′), *adj.* generally or traditionally accepted; conventional; standard: *a received moral idea.* [1400–50; late ME; see RECEIVE, -ED²]

Received′ Pronuncia′tion, the pronunciation of British English considered to have the widest geographical distribution and the fewest regional peculiarities, originally the pronunciation of educated speakers in southern England and traditionally that used in the public schools and at Oxford and Cambridge universities, adopted by many speakers elsewhere in England and widely used in broadcasting. *Abbr.*: RP [1865–70]

Received′ Stand′ard, the form of educated English spoken originally in southern England and having Received Pronunciation as a chief distinguishing feature. Also called **Received′ Stand′ard Eng′lish.** [1910–15]

re·ceiv·er (ri sē′vər), *n.* **1.** a person or thing that receives. **2.** a device or apparatus that receives electrical signals, waves, or the like, and renders them perceptible to the senses, as the part of a telephone held to the ear, a radio receiving set, or a television receiving set. **3.** *Law.* a person appointed by a court to manage the affairs of a bankrupt business or person or to care for property in litigation. **4.** *Com.* a person appointed to receive money due. **5.** a person who knowingly receives stolen goods for an illegal purpose; a dealer in stolen merchandise. **6.** a device or apparatus for receiving or holding something; receptacle; container. **7.** (in a firearm) the basic metal unit housing the action and to which the barrel and other components are attached. **8.** *Chem.* a vessel for collecting and containing a distillate. See illus. under **alembic.** **9.** *Football.* a player on the offensive team who catches, is eligible to catch, or is noted for the ability to catch a forward pass: *Jones was the receiver of the first pass thrown. He sent all his receivers downfield.* **10.** *Baseball.* the catcher. [1300–50; 1875–80 for def. 2; RECEIVE + -ER¹; r. ME *recevour* < AF *receivour, recevour* (OF *recevere*)]

receiv′er gen′eral, *pl.* **receivers general.** a public official in charge of the government's treasury. [1400–50; late ME]

re·ceiv·er·ship (ri sē′vər ship′), *n. Law.* **1.** the condition of being in the hands of a receiver. **2.** the position or function of being a receiver in charge of administering the property of others. [1475–85; RECEIVER + -SHIP]

receiv′ing blan′ket, a small blanket, usually of cotton, for wrapping an infant, esp. following a bath. [1925–30]

receiv′ing end′, the position in which one is subject to some kind of action or effect, esp. an unpleasant one (usually used in the phrase *at* or *on the receiving end*): *The corporation is on the receiving end of many complaints about its advertising.* [1930–35]

receiv′ing line′, a row formed by the hosts, guests of honor, or the like, for receiving guests formally at a ball, reception, etc. [1930–35, *Amer.*]

receiv′ing set′, *Radio.* a radio receiver. [1915–20]

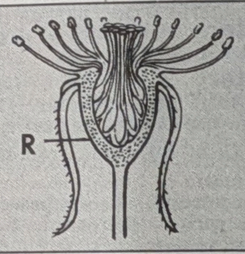
CONCISE ETYMOLOGY KEY: <, descended or borrowed from; >, whence; b., blend of, blended; c., cognate with; cf., compare; deriv., derivative; equiv., equivalent; imit., imitative; obl., oblique; r., replacing; s., stem; sp., spelling, spelled; resp., respelling, respelled; trans., translation; ?, origin unknown; *, unattested; ‡, probably earlier than. See the full key inside the front cover.

re·cen·sion (ri sen′shən), *n.* **1.** an editorial revision of a literary work, esp. on the basis of critical examination of the text and the sources used. **2.** a version of a text resulting from such revision. [1630–40; < L *recēnsiōn-* (s. of *recēnsiō*) a reviewing, equiv. to *recēns(ēre)* (*re-* RE- + *cēnsēre* to estimate, assess) + *-iōn-* -ION]
—**re·cen′sion·ist,** *n.*

re·cent (rē′sənt), *adj.* **1.** of late occurrence, appearance, or origin; lately happening, done, made, etc.: *recent events; a recent trip.* **2.** not long past: *in recent years.* **3.** of or belonging to a time not long past. **4.** (*cap.*) *Geol.* noting or pertaining to the present epoch, originating at the end of the glacial period, about 10,000 years ago, and forming the latter half of the Quaternary Period; Holocene. See table under **geologic time.** —*n.* **5.** Also called **Holocene.** (*cap.*) *Geol.* the Recent Epoch or Series. [1525–35; < L *recent-* (s. of *recēns*) fresh, new] —**re′cen·cy, re′cent·ness,** *n.* —**re′cent·ly,** *adv.*
—**Syn. 1.** fresh, new. See **modern.** —**Ant. 1.** early, old.

re·cept (rē′sept), *n.* an idea formed by the repetition of similar percepts, as successive percepts of the same object. [1885–90; n. use of L *receptum*, neut. ptp. of *recipere* to RECEIVE] —**re·cep·tu·al** (ri sep′chōō əl), *adj.* —**re·cep′tu·al·ly,** *adv.*

re·cep·ta·cle (ri sep′tə kəl), *n.* **1.** a container, device, etc., that receives or holds something: *a receptacle for trash.* **2.** *Bot.* the modified or expanded portion of the stem or axis that bears the organs of a single flower or the florets of a flower head. **3.** *Elect.* a contact device installed at an outlet for the connection of a portable lamp, appliance, or other electric device by means of a plug and flexible cord. [1375–1425; ME (< OF) < L *receptāculum* reservoir, equiv. to *receptā(re)* to take again, receive back (freq. of *recipere* to RECEIVE) + *-culum* -CLE²]



R, **receptacle** (def. 2) (longitudinal section)

re·cep·ti·ble (ri sep′tə bəl), *adj.* adapted to or suitable for reception. [1565–75; < LL *receptibilis* that may be acquired again, equiv. to L *recept(us)* (ptp. of *recipere* to RECEIVE) + *-ibilis* -IBLE] —**re·cep′ti·bil′i·ty,** *n.*

re·cep·tion (ri sep′shən), *n.* **1.** the act of receiving or the state of being received. **2.** a manner of being received: *The book met with a favorable reception.* **3.** a function or occasion when persons are formally received: *a wedding reception.* **4.** the quality or fidelity attained in receiving radio or television broadcasts under given circumstances. [1350–1400; ME *recepcion* < L *receptiōn-* (s. of *receptiō*), equiv. to *recept(us)* (ptp. of *recipere* to RECEIVE) + *-iōn-* -ION]
—**Syn. 2.** response, reaction, treatment.

recep′tion desk′, **1.** a desk at which a receptionist works, as in an office. **2.** a counter, as at a hotel, at which guests are registered. Also called **front desk.** [1935–40]

re·cep·tion·ism (ri sep′shə niz′əm), *n. Theol.* the doctrine that in the communion service the communicant receives the body and blood of Christ but that the bread and wine are not transubstantiated. [1895–1900; RECEPTION + -ISM]

re·cep·tion·ist (ri sep′shə nist), *n.* **1.** a person employed to receive and assist callers, clients, etc., as in an office. **2.** *Theol.* a person who advocates receptionism. [1865–70; RECEPTION + -IST]

recep′tion room′, a room for receiving visitors, clients, patients, etc. [1820–30]

re·cep·tive (ri sep′tiv), *adj.* **1.** having the quality of receiving, taking in, or admitting. **2.** able or quick to receive knowledge, ideas, etc.: *a receptive mind.* **3.** willing or inclined to receive suggestions, offers, etc., with favor: *a receptive listener.* **4.** of or pertaining to reception or receptors: *a receptive end organ.* **5.** (in language learning) of or pertaining to the language skills of listening and reading (opposed to *productive*). [1540–50; < ML *receptivus.* See RECEPTION, -IVE] —**re·cep′tive·ly, adv.** —**re·cep·tiv·i·ty** (rē′sep tiv′i tē), **re·cep′tive·ness,** *n.*
—**Syn. 3.** amenable, hospitable, responsive, open.

re·cep·tor (ri sep′tər), *n.* **1.** *Physiol.* an end organ or a group of end organs of sensory or afferent neurons, specialized to be sensitive to stimulating agents, as touch or heat. **2.** *Cell Biol.* any of various specific protein molecules in surface membranes of cells and organelles to which complementary molecules, as hormones, neurotransmitters, antigens, or antibodies, may become bound. **3.** the panlike base of a stall shower. [1400–50; late ME *receptour* < OF < L *receptor.* See RECEPTION, -TOR]

re·cess (ri ses′, rē′ses), *n.* **1.** temporary withdrawal or cessation from the usual work or activity. **2.** a period of such withdrawal. **3.** a receding part or space, as a bay or alcove in a room. **4.** an indentation in a line or extent of coast, hills, forest, etc. **5. recesses,** a secluded or inner area or part: *in the recesses of the palace.* —*v.t.* **6.** to place or set in a recess. **7.** to set or form as or like a recess; make a recess or recesses in: to recess the [illegible] **8.** to suspend or defer for a recess: to recess the [illegible] —*v.i.* **9.** to take a recess. [1510–20; < L recessus a withdrawal, receding part, equiv. to recēd(ere) to RECEDE [illegible] *-tus* suffix of v. action, with *dt* > *ss*]
—**Syn. 1.** respite, rest, break, vacation.

re·ces·sion¹ (ri sesh′ən), *n.* **1.** the act of receding; withdrawing. **2.** a receding part of a wall, building, etc. **3.** a withdrawing procession, as at the end of a religious service. **4.** *Econ.* a period of an economic contraction, sometimes limited in scope or duration. Cf. **depression** (def. 7). [1640–50; < L recessiōn- (s. of recessiō). See RECESS, -ION]

re·ces·sion² (rē sesh′ən), *n.* a return of ownership to a former possessor. [1885–90; RE- + CESSION]

re·ces·sion·al (ri sesh′ə nl), *adj.* **1.** of or pertaining to a recession of the clergy and choir after the service. **2.** of or pertaining to a recess, as of a legislative body. —*n.* **3.** a hymn or other piece of music played at the end of a service while the congregation is filing out. [1895–70; RECESSION¹ + -AL¹]

reces′sional moraine′, *Geol.* a moraine marking a temporary halt in the general retreat of a glacier. Cf. **terminal moraine.** [1905–10]

re·ces·sion·ar·y (ri sesh′ə ner′ē), *adj.* of, pertaining to, or causing recession, esp. economic recession: *recessionary market pressures.* [1955–60; RECESSION + -ARY]

re·ces·sion·proof (ri sesh′ən prōōf′), *adj.* not susceptible to an economic recession: *a recessionproof economy; He wants a long-term contract to make his job recessionproof.* [1975–80; RECESSION¹ + -PROOF]

re·ces·sive (ri ses′iv), *adj.* **1.** tending to go, move, or slant back; receding. **2.** *Genetics.* of or pertaining to a recessive. **3.** *Phonet.* (of an accent) showing a tendency to recede from the end toward the beginning of a word. —*n.* *Genetics.* **4.** that one of a pair of alternative alleles whose effect is masked by the activity of the second when both are present in the same cell or organism. **5.** the trait or character determined by such an allele. Cf. **dominant** (def. 6). [1665–75; < L recess(us) (see RECESS) + -IVE] —**re·ces′sive·ly,** *adv.* —**re·ces′sive·ness,** *n.*

re·charge (*v.* rē chärj′; *n.* rē′chärj′), **-charged, -charg·ing,** *n.* —*v.t.* **1.** to charge again with electricity. **2.** *Informal.* to refresh or restore; revitalize. —*v.i.* **3.** to make a new charge, esp. to attack again. **4.** *Informal.* to revive or restore energy, stamina, enthusiasm, etc. —*n.* **5.** an act or instance of recharging. **6.** *Geol.* the processes by which ground water is absorbed into the zone of saturation. Cf. **water table.** [1400–50; late ME: to reload (a vessel). See RE-, CHARGE] —**re·charg′er,** *n.*

re·charge·a·ble (rē chär′jə bəl), *adj.* **1.** (of a storage battery) capable of being charged repeatedly. Cf. **rechargeless** (def. 2). —*n.* **2.** a rechargeable battery. [1945–50; RE- + CHARGEABLE] —**re·charge′a·bil′i·ty,** *n.*

ré·chauf·fé (*Fr.* rā shō fā′), *n.*, *pl.* **-fés** (*Fr.* -fā′). **1.** a warmed-up dish of food. **2.** anything old or stale brought into service again. [1795–1805; < F, ptp. of *réchauffer* (*r(e)-* RE- + *échauffer* to warm; see CHAFE)]

re·cher·ché (rə shâr′shā, rə shâr shā′; *Fr.* rə sher-shā′), *adj.* **1.** sought out with care. **2.** very rare, exotic, or choice; arcane; obscure. **3.** of studied refinement or elegance; precious; affected; pretentious. [1715–25; < F, ptp. of *rechercher* to search for carefully; see RESEARCH]

re·cid·i·vate (ri sid′ə vāt′, rē-), *v.i.* **-vat·ed, -vat·ing.** to engage in recidivism; relapse. [1520–30; < ML *recidivātus* ptp. of *recidivāre* to relapse. See RECIDIVISM, -ATE¹]

re·cid·i·vism (ri sid′ə viz′əm), *n.* **1.** repeated or habitual relapse, as into crime. **2.** *Psychiatry.* the chronic tendency toward repetition of criminal or antisocial behavior patterns. [1885–90; < L *recidiv(us)* relapsing (*recid(ere)* to fall back (*re-* RE- + *-cidere*, comb. form of *cadere* to fall) + *-īvus* -IVE) + -ISM] —**re·cid′i·vist,** *n.*, *adj.* —**re·cid′i·vis′tic, re·cid′i·vous,** *adj.*

Re·ci·fe (rə sē′fə), *n.* a seaport in and the capital of Pernambuco province, in NE Brazil. 1,249,821. Formerly **Pernambuco.**

recip., **1.** reciprocal. **2.** reciprocity.

rec·i·pe (res′ə pē), *n.* **1.** a set of instructions for making or preparing something, esp. a food dish: *a recipe for a cake.* **2.** a medical prescription. **3.** a method to attain a desired end: *a recipe for success.* [1350–1400; ME < L, take, impv. sing. of *recipere* to RECEIVE]

re·cip·i·ence (ri sip′ē əns), *n.* **1.** the act of receiving; reception. **2.** the state or quality of being receptive; receptiveness. Also, **re·cip′i·en·cy.** [1880–85; RECEIPT (ENT) + -ENCE]

re·cip·i·ent (ri sip′ē ənt), *n.* **1.** a person or thing that receives; receiver: *the recipient of a prize.* —*adj.* **2.** receiving or capable of receiving. [1550–60; < L recipiēnt- (s. of *recipiēns*), prp. of *recipere* to RECEIVE; see -ENT]

re·cip·ro·cal (ri sip′rə kəl), *adj.* **1.** given or done by each toward the other; mutual: *reciprocal respect.* **2.** given, performed, felt, etc., in return: *reciprocal aid.* **3.** corresponding; matching; complementary; equivalent: *reciprocal privileges at other health clubs.* **4.** *Gram.* (of a pronoun or verb) expressing mutual relationship or action: *"Each other" and "one another" are reciprocal pronouns.* **5.** inversely related or proportional; opposite: *nouns.* **6.** *Math.* noting expressions, relations, etc., involving reciprocals: *a reciprocal function.* **7.** *Navig.* bearing in a direction 180° to a given direction; back. —*n.* **8.** something that is reciprocal to something else; equivalent; counterpart; complement. **9.** Also called **multiplicative**

re′at·tack′, *v.*
re′at·tain′, *v.t.*
re′at·tain′ment, *n.*
re′at·tempt′, *v.t.*
re′at·test′, *v.t.*
re′at·tire′, *v.t.*, **-tired, -tir·ing.**
re′at·tract′, *v.t.*
re′at·trac′tion, *n.*
re′at·trib′ute, *v.t.*, **-ut·ed, -ut·ing.**
re′at·tri·bu′tion, *n.*
re·au′dit, *n.*, *v.*
re′au·di′tion, *n.*
re′au·then′ti·cate′, *v.t.*, **-cat·ed, -cat·ing.**
re′au·then′ti·ca′tion, *n.*
re′au·thor·i·za′tion, *n.*
re·au′thor·ize′, *v.t.*, **-ized, -iz·ing.**
re′a·vow′, *v.t.*
re′a·vow′al, *n.*
re′a·wake′, *v.*, **-woke** or **-waked, -wak·ing.**
re′a·wak′en, *v.*
re′a·wak′en·ing, *n.*
re·bait′, *v.t.*
re·bake′, *v.t.*, **-baked, -bak·ing.**
re·bal′ance, *v.*, **-anced, -anc·ing.**
re·bale′, *v.t.*, **-baled, -bal·ing.**
re·bal′lot, *n.*, *v.i.*
re·band′age, *v.t.*, **-aged, -ag·ing.**
re·bank′, *v.*
re·bap′tism, *n.*
re·bap′tize, *v.*, **-tized, -tiz·ing.**
re·bathe′, *v.*, **-bathed, -bath·ing.**
re·bend′, *v.t.*, **-bent, -bend·ing.**
re·bend′a·ble, *adj.*
re·bill′, *v.t.*
re·bind′, *v.*, **-bound, -bind·ing.**
re·bleach′, *v.*

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