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mirid /ˈmɪrɪd, ˈmɪrɪd/ ▶ n. an active plant bug of a large family (Miridae) that includes numerous plant pests.
– ORIGIN 1940s: from mod. L. *Miridae*, from *mirus* 'wonderful'.

mirin /ˈmɪrɪn/ ▶ n. a rice wine used as a flavouring in Japanese cookery.
– ORIGIN from Japanese.

mirk ▶ n. & adj. archaic spelling of **MURK**.

mirky ▶ adj. archaic spelling of **MURKY**.

mirliton /ˈmɪrlɪtən/ ▶ n. 1 a musical instrument with a nasal tone produced by a vibrating membrane, resembling a kazoo. 2 US another term for **CHAYOTE**.
– ORIGIN C19: from Fr., 'reed pipe', of imitative origin.

mirror ▶ n. 1 a surface, typically of glass coated with a metal amalgam, which reflects a clear image. 2 something regarded as accurately representing something else. 3 (also **mirror site**) a site on a computer network which stores the contents copied from another site. ▶ v. 1 show a reflection of. 2 correspond to. 3 copy the contents of (a network site) and store at another site. ■ store copies of data in (two or more hard disks).
– DERIVATIVES **mirrored** adj.

– ORIGIN ME: from OFr. *mirour*, based on L. *mirare* 'look at'.

mirrorball ▶ n. a revolving ball covered with small mirrored facets, used to provide lighting effects at discos or dances.

mirror carp ▶ n. a common carp of an ornamental variety that has a row of large shiny plate-like scales along each side.

mirror finish ▶ n. a smooth reflective finish.

mirror image ▶ n. an identical image, but with the structure reversed, as in a mirror.

mirror symmetry ▶ n. symmetry about a plane, like that between an object and its reflection.

mirror writing ▶ n. reversed writing resembling ordinary writing reflected in a mirror.

mirth ▶ n. amusement, especially as expressed in laughter.

– DERIVATIVES **mirthful** adj. **mirthfully** adv.

– ORIGIN OE *myrġth*, of Gmc origin; rel. to **MERRY**.

mirthless ▶ adj. (of a smile or laugh) lacking real amusement and typically expressing irony.

– DERIVATIVES **mirthlessly** adv. **mirthlessness** n.

MIRV /ˈmɪr.v/ ▶ n. an intercontinental nuclear missile with several independent warheads.

– ORIGIN 1960s: acronym from *Multiple Independently targeted Re-entry Vehicle*.

miry /ˈmɪəri/ ▶ adj. very muddy or boggy.

MIS ▶ abbr. Computing management information systems.

mis⁻¹ ▶ prefix (added to verbs and their derivatives) wrongly: **misapply**. ■ badly: **mismanage**. ■ unsuitably: **misname**.

– ORIGIN OE, of Gmc origin.

mis⁻² ▶ prefix occurring in a few words adopted from French expressing a sense with negative force: **misadventure**.

– ORIGIN from OFr. *mes-* (based on L. *minus*), assimilated to **MIS**⁻¹.

misadventure ▶ n. 1 (also **death by misadventure**) English Law death caused accidentally while performing a legal act without negligence or intent to harm. 2 a mishap.

misaligned ▶ adj. incorrectly aligned.

– DERIVATIVES **misalignment** n.

misalliance ▶ n. an unsuitable or unhappy alliance or marriage.

misandry /mɪˈsændri/ ▶ n. hatred of men.

– DERIVATIVES **misandrist** n.

– ORIGIN 1940s: from Gk *misō* 'hating' + *anēr*, *andr-* 'man', on the pattern of *misogyny*.

misanthrope /mɪz(ə)nəʊp, mɪs-/ (also

misanthropist /mɪˈzənθəpɪst, mɪˈsən-/ ▶ n. a person who dislikes humankind.

– DERIVATIVES **misanthropic** adj. **misanthropical** adj.

misanthropically adv.

– ORIGIN C16: from Gk *misanthrōpos*, from *misein* 'to hate' + *anthrōpos* 'man'.

misanthropy /mɪˈzənθəpi, mɪˈsən-/ ▶ n. a dislike of humankind.

– ORIGIN C17: from Gk *misanthrōpia*, from *misō* 'hating' + *anthrōpos* 'man'.

misapply ▶ v. (**misapplies**, **misapplying**, **misapplied**) use for the wrong purpose or in the wrong way.

– DERIVATIVES **misapplication** n.

misapprehend ▶ v. fail to understand (a person or their words) correctly; misinterpret.

misapprehension ▶ n. a mistaken belief.

misappropriate ▶ v. dishonestly or unfairly take for one's own use.

– DERIVATIVES **misappropriation** n.

misattribute ▶ v. (often **misattribute something to**) wrongly attribute.

– DERIVATIVES **misattribution** n.

misbegotten ▶ adj. 1 badly conceived, designed, or planned. ■ contemptible. 2 archaic (of a child) illegitimate.

misbehave ▶ v. behave badly.

– DERIVATIVES **misbehaviour** n.

misbelief ▶ n. 1 a wrong or false belief or opinion. 2 less common term for **DISBELIEF**.

– DERIVATIVES **misbeliever** n.

misc. ▶ abbr. miscellaneous.

miscalculate ▶ v. calculate or assess wrongly.

– DERIVATIVES **miscalculation** n.

miscall ▶ v. 1 call by a wrong or inappropriate name. 2 archaic or dialect insult verbally.

miscarriage ▶ n. the spontaneous or unplanned expulsion of a fetus from the womb before it is able to survive independently.

miscarriage of justice ▶ n. a failure of a court or judicial system to attain the ends of justice.

miscarry ▶ v. (**miscarries**, **miscarrying**, **miscarried**)

1 (of a pregnant woman) experience a miscarriage.

2 (of a plan) fail. ■ dated (of a letter) fail to reach its destination.

miscast ▶ v. (past and past part. **miscast**) allot an unsuitable role to (an actor).

miscegenation /ˌmɪsɪdʒɪˈneɪʃ(ə)n/ ▶ n. the interbreeding of people of different races.

– ORIGIN C19: formed irregularly from L. *miscere* 'to mix' + *genus* 'race' + *-ATION*.

miscellanea /ˌmɪsəˈleɪniə/ ▶ pl. n. miscellaneous items collected together.

– ORIGIN C16: from L., neut. pl. of *miscellaneus* (see **MISCELLANEOUS**).

miscellaneous /ˌmɪsəˈleɪniəs/ ▶ adj. of various types.

■ composed of members or elements of different kinds.

– DERIVATIVES **miscellaneously** adv. **miscellaneousness** n.

– ORIGIN C17: from L. *miscellaneus* (from *miscellus* 'mixed', from *miscere* 'to mix') + *-OUS*.

miscellany /mɪˈseləni/ ▶ n. (pl. **miscellanies**) a mixture.

■ a collection of pieces of writing by different authors.

– ORIGIN C16: from Fr. *miscellanées* (fem. pl.), from L. *miscellanea* (see **MISCELLANEA**).

mischance ▶ n. bad luck. ■ an unlucky occurrence.

mischievous /ˈmɪʃtʃɪvəs/ ▶ n. 1 playful misbehaviour or troublemaking. 2 harm or trouble caused by someone or something. 3 law a wrong or hardship which it is the object of a statute to remove or for which the common law affords a remedy.

– PHRASES **do someone a mischief** Brit. informal injure someone.

– ORIGIN ME: from OFr. *meschief*, from *meschever* 'come to an unfortunate end'.

mischievous /ˈmɪʃtʃɪvəs/ ▶ adj. 1 causing or disposed to mischief. 2 intended to cause harm or trouble.

– DERIVATIVES **mischievously** adv. **mischievousness** n.

– ORIGIN ME (orig. 'unfortunate or calamitous', later 'having harmful effects'): from Anglo-Norman Fr. *meschevous*, from OFr. *meschever* (see **MISCHIEF**).

USAGE *Mischievous* is a three-syllable word; don't pronounce it with four syllables, as if it were spelled *mischievious* (/ˈmɪʃtʃiːviəs/).

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