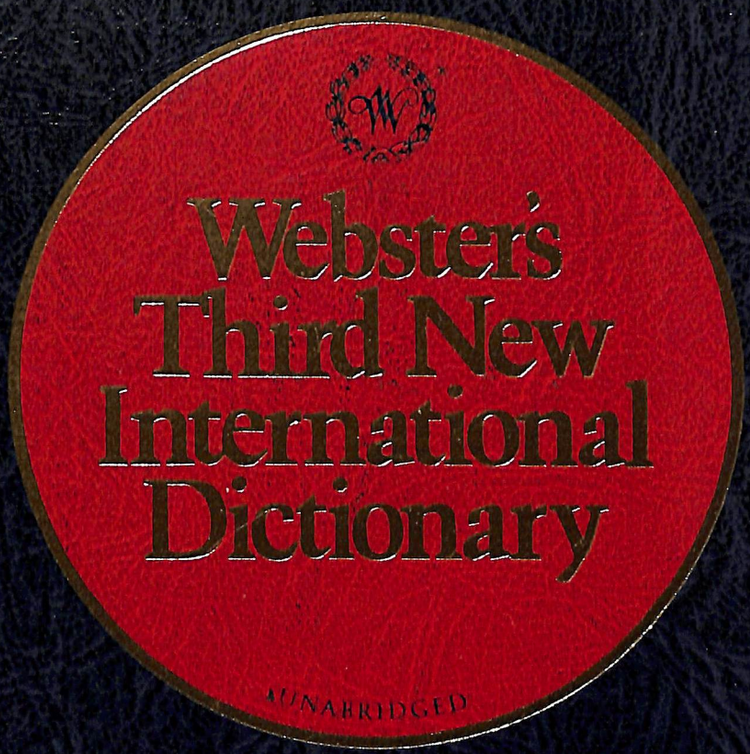

Webster's
Third New
International
Dictionary
UNABRIDGED

MERRIAM-WEBSTER PRONUNCIATION SYMBOLS

ə .....**ba**n**a**n**a**, **co**ll**e**ct

ˈə, ˌə **hu**m**dru**m

ə̄ .....as in one pronunciation used by *r*-droppers for **bi**r**d** (alternative \əi\)

ə̇ .....two-value symbol equivalent to the unstressed variants \ə\, \i\, as in hab**it**, duch**ess** (\ˈhabə̇t\ = \ˈhabət, -bit\)

ᵊ .....immediately preceding \l\, \n\, \m\, \ŋ\, as in bat**tle**, mitt**en**, and in one pronunciation of cap **and** bells \-ᵊm-\, lock **and** key \-ᵊŋ-\; immediately following \l\, \m\, \r\, as in one pronunciation of French tab**le**, pris**me**, tit**re**

əi ....as in one pronunciation used by *r*-droppers for **bi**r**d** (alternative \ə̄\)

ər ....op**er**ation; stressed, as in **bi**r**d** as pronounced by speakers who do not drop *r;* stressed and with centered period after the \r\, as in one pronunciation of b**ur**ry (alternative \ə̄r\) and in one pronunciation of h**ur**ry (alternative \ə·r\); stressed and with centered period between \ə\ and \r\, as in one pronunciation of h**ur**ry (alternative \ər·\)

a .....m**a**t, m**a**p

ā .....d**ay**, f**a**de, d**a**te, **a**orta

ä .....b**o**ther, c**o**t; most American speakers have the same vowel in f**a**ther, c**a**rt

ȧ .....f**a**ther as pronounced by speakers who do not rhyme it with b**o**ther; f**a**rther and c**a**rt as pronounced by *r*-droppers

aa ...b**a**d, b**a**g, f**a**n as often pronounced in an area having New York City and Washington, D. C., on its perimeter; in an emphatic syllable, as before a pause, often \aaə\

ai ....as in some pronunciations of b**a**g, b**a**ng, p**a**ss

au̇ ...n**ow**, l**ou**d, some pronunciations of t**a**lcum

b .....b**a**by, ri**b**

ch ....**ch**in, nature \ˈnāchə(r)\ (actually, this sound is \t\ + \sh\)

d .....**d**elder, un**d**one

d· ....as in the usual American pronunciation of la**tt**er, la**dd**er

e .....b**e**t, b**e**d

ˈē, ˌē b**ea**t, nosebl**ee**d, **e**venly, sl**ee**py

ē .....as in one pronunciation of evenly, sleepy, envious, igneous (alternative \i\)

ee ....(in transcriptions of foreign words only) indicates a vowel with the quality of *e* in *bet* but long, not the sound of *ee* in *sleep: en arrière* \ äⁿnäryeer\

eu̇ ...as in one pronunciation of **e**lk, h**e**lm

f .....**f**ifty, cu**ff**

g .....**g**o, bi**g**

h .....**h**at, a**h**ead

hw ...**wh**ale as pronounced by those who do not have the same pronunciation for both *whale* and *wail*

i .....t**i**p, one pronunciation of banish (alternative unstressed \ē\), one pronunciation of hab**i**t (alternative \ə\; see ə̇)

ī .....s**i**te, s**i**de, b**uy** (actually, this sound is \ä\ + \i\, or \a\ + \i\)

iu̇ ....as in one pronunciation of m**il**k, f**il**m

j .....**j**ob, ge**m**, e**dg**e, procedure \prəˈsējə(r)\ (actually, this sound is \d\ + \zh\)

k .....**k**in, **c**oo**k**, a**ch**e

k̲ .....as in one pronunciation of lo**ch** (alternative \k\), as in German i**ch**-laut

l .....**l**ily, poo**l**

m ....**m**ur**m**ur, di**m**, ny**m**ph

n .....**n**o, ow**n**

n .....indicates that a preceding vowel is pronounced with the nasal passages open, as in French *un bon vin blanc* \œⁿbōⁿvaⁿbläⁿ\

ŋ .....si**ng** \ˈsiŋ\, si**ng**er \ˈsiŋə(r)\, fi**ng**er \ˈfiŋgə(r)\, i**nk** \ˈiŋk\

ō .....b**o**ne, sn**ow**, b**eau**; one pronunciation of gl**o**ry

ȯ .....s**aw**, **a**ll, s**au**rian; one pronunciation of h**o**rrid

œ ....French b**œu**f, German H**ö**lle

œ̄ ....French f**eu**, German H**öh**le

ȯi ....**oi**n, destr**oy**, str**awy**, s**awi**ng

o̅o̅ ...(in transcriptions of foreign words only) indicates a vowel with the quality of *o* in *bone* but longer, not the sound of *oo* in *food: comte* \kō o̅ⁿt\

p .....**p**epper, li**p**

r .....**r**arity, one pronunciation of ta**r**

s .....**s**our**c**e, le**ss**

sh ....with nothing between, as in **sh**y, mi**ss**ion, ma**ch**ine, spe**ci**al (actually, this is a single sound, not two); with a stress mark between, two sounds as in death'**s**-**h**ead \ˈdeths,hed\

t .....**t**ie, a**tt**ack; one pronunciation of la**tt**er (alternative \d·\)

th ....with nothing between, as in **th**in, e**th**er (actually, this is a single sound, not two); with a stress mark between, two sounds as in knight**h**ood \ˈnīt,hu̇d\

th̲ ....**th**en, ei**th**er (actually, this is a single sound, not two)

ü .....r**u**le, f**oo**l, y**ou**th, union \ˈyünyən\, few \ˈfyü\

u̇ .....p**u**ll, w**oo**d, curable \ˈkyu̇rəbəl\

ue ....German f**ü**llen, h**ü**bsch

ue̅ ....French r**ue**, German f**üh**len

v .....**v**ivid, gi**v**e

w ....**w**e, a**w**ay

y .....**y**ard, cue \ˈkyü\, union \ˈyünyən\

y .....(in transcriptions of foreign words only) indicates that during the articulation of the sound represented by the preceding character the tip of the tongue has substantially the position it has for the articulation of the first sound of *yard*, as in French *digne* \dēnʸ\

yü....**you**th, **u**nion, c**ue**, f**ew**

yu̇....c**u**rable

z .....**z**one, rai**s**e

zh... with nothing between, as in vi**s**ion, azure \ˈazhə(r)\ (actually, this is a single sound, not two); with a stress mark between, two sounds as in ro**s**e**h**ill \ˈrōz,hil\

\ ....slant line used in pairs to mark the beginning and end of a transcription: \ˈpen\

ˈ .....mark preceding a syllable with primary (strongest) stress: \ˈpenmən,ship\

ˌ .....mark preceding a syllable with secondary (next-strongest) stress: \ˈpenmən,ship\

ˈˌ .....combined marks preceding a syllable whose stress varies between primary and secondary: *backbone* \ˈbakˌbōn\ (§2.2)

˗ .....inferior minus sign canceling a stress in the same position in a preceding pronunciation or emphasizing that a following syllable is without stress: *optimism* \ˈäptəˌmizəm\, *optimist* \˗məst\ (§2.11)

. .....mark of syllable division inserted in a sequence of sounds that can have more than one syllable division: *nitrate* \ˈnīˌtrāt\ (§2.1)

ˌˌ .....symbol for the sounds of a syllable: *backbone* \ˈbakˌbōn\ (§§2.7.1, 2.7.2)

( ), (..indicate that what is symbolized between or after is present in some utterances but not in others: *factory* \ˈfakt(ə)rē\, *bar* \ˈbär, ˈbä(r\ (§§2.5.1, 2.5.2)

“ .....ditto mark, indicating that a preceding pronunciation is to be repeated: ¹*poise* \ˈpȯiz\ *v*, ²*poise* \“\ *n* (§§2.8.1, 2.8.2)

+ ....in an incomplete pronunciation signifies that the missing part is to be sought elsewhere in the vocabulary: *geopositive* \ˌjē(ˌ)ō+\ (pronunciation of *-positive* is to be sought at POSITIVE) (§2.9)

+V..means “when a vowel sound follows without pause, as in a suffix or another word”

| .....facilitates the placement of a variant pronunciation: *flightily* \ˈflīd·|ᵊlē, -ət|, |ᵊli, |əl-\ (§2.6)

R ....labels certain pronunciations used by speakers who do not drop *r* (§2.10)

−*R*...labels certain pronunciations used by speakers who drop *r* (§2.10)

÷ ....indicates that many regard as unacceptable the one pronunciation immediately following: *cupola* \ˈkyüpələ, ÷ -pəˌlō\, *sacrilegious* \÷ˌsakrəˈlijəs, -lēj-\ (§2.12)

. . . . . indicates an omission to be supplied from a preceding entry or an entry elsewhere: *dilettantish* \ˌdi=ə=ˈt. . .ntish\ (four variants for the *a* are to be supplied from ¹DILETTANTE)

SPECIAL SYMBOLS

[ ]....boldface square brackets contain etymology

:.....boldface symbolic colon signals a definition or sense

~.....boldface or lightface swung dash stands for the preceding boldface entry word

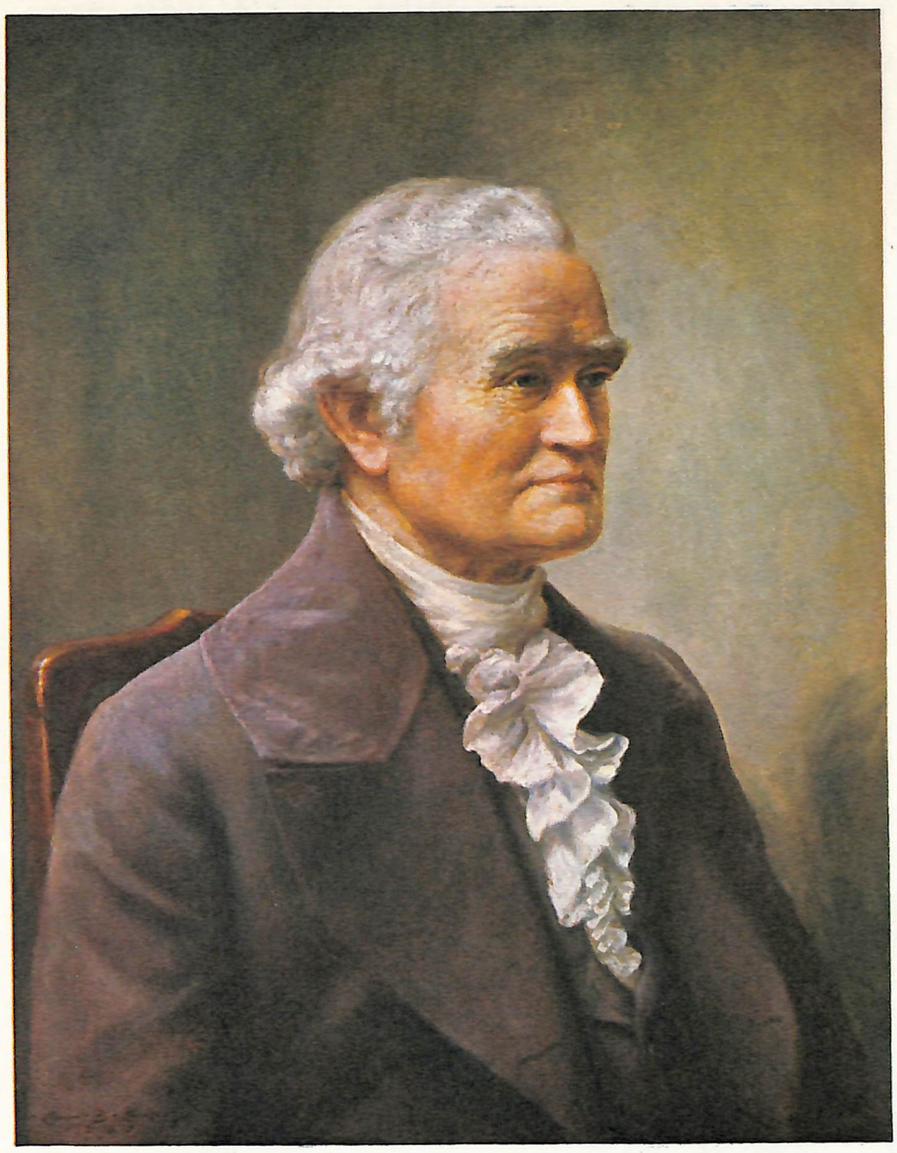
⟨ ⟩....lightface angle brackets contain a verbal illustration

=.....lightface double hyphen at end-of-line is a hyphen that should be retained

☞....fistnote (see definition)

+.....plus sign in etymology joins words or word elements

†.....dagger precedes a death date



N Webster

NOAH WEBSTER

OCTOBER 16, 1758 — MAY 28, 1843

THE significance of Noah Webster's *Dictionary* and his *Spelling Book* can be appreciated only when they are viewed against the background spanned by his life. He was born on an eighty-acre Connecticut farm the year before Wolfe's victory on the Plains of Abraham, and lived to see American pioneers penetrate overland into California and Oregon. He was a small boy when the Stamp Act aroused the colonists, and a student at Yale when college classes were dispersed into the interior towns by the menace of British landing parties. He marched with his father against Burgoyne. In 1785, moved by the incompetence of the Confederation of thirteen sovereign states, he wrote a widely circulated argument for national union. In 1787 he issued an influential pamphlet advocating the adoption of the Federal Constitution. From 1793 to 1798 he owned, managed, and edited a daily and a weekly newspaper in New York City, supporting the Federalist policies of Washington and Adams. Living under the first ten presidents, he witnessed the acquisition of Louisiana Territory and Florida, the admission of thirteen additional states, and the approaching annexation of Texas.

Out of the patriotism and nationalism inspired by this sweep of events came the conviction that lusty young America needed its own school books, its own uniform language, and its own intellectual life. Into the attainment of these ends Webster flung himself with insatiable curiosity and indomitable energy. His *Blue-Backed Speller* (which taught not only spelling but pronunciation, common sense, morals, and good citizenship) was partly provoked by his efforts to use Dilworth's English spelling book while he was teaching school in Connecticut, New York, and Philadelphia. His dictionaries (*Compendious*, 1806; *American*, 1828) were suggested partly by his resentment against the ignorance concerning American institutions shown in contemporary British dictionaries. All his life he was a defender and interpreter of the American political "experiment", with all its cultural implications.

His dictionaries and his *Spelling Book* grew out of an intimate and vital familiarity with American life. He knew the farm, the law, the city, the school, and politics. He knew the country as a whole—he had traveled (1785–1786) by horse, by carriage, and by sailing vessel from Massachusetts to South Carolina, persuading state legislatures to pass laws for the protection of copyright. He was a spelling reformer, an orchardist, a gardener, and an experimental scientist. He was admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court. He became and remained a devoted Calvinistic churchman. He wrote scores of articles, books, and pamphlets on literary, economic, political, philological, practical, and scientific subjects —on banks, epidemics, insurance, the French Revolution, the decomposition of white-lead paint, the Jay Treaty, and the rights of neutral nations in time of war. He edited Governor Winthrop's Journal. He wrote and published a revised and emended version of the Bible.

He assumed all the local duties and responsibilities of a citizen. He was clerk and committeeman of his Hartford school district. He was a member for a time of the General Assembly of Connecticut and for a time of the General Court of Massachusetts. He was councilman and alderman in New Haven and judge of the County Court. In Amherst he was town moderator. He was a director of the Hampshire Bible Society, a vice-president of the Hampshire and Hampden Agricultural Society, and a founder of the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences. He was active in the establishment of both Amherst Academy and Amherst College, and was president of the Board of Trustees of the Academy. In New Haven he campaigned for the introduction of an adequate water supply, and took active part in a movement to plant elms along the streets.

In 1807 he wrote: "I hope to be able to finish my Complete Dictionary. . . . It will require the incessant labor of from three to five years." In 1812 he moved to Amherst, Massachusetts, where for ten years he labored from point to point about the large circular table that held the dictionaries and grammars of twenty languages. In 1824 he sailed to spend a year in the libraries of Paris, London, and Cambridge in order to consult books not available in America. In 1828, at the age of seventy, he at length published *An American Dictionary of the English Language* in a two-volume edition of 2500 copies.

The *American Dictionary* stands practically beyond praise or comparison. The excellence of the definitions has received ample acknowledgment. But some other features of Webster's work have never been adequately recognized: First, the inclusion of thousands of modern technical and scientific terms, making it more than a purely literary dictionary. Second, the discovery of the correct principle for arranging the definitions, with the etymologically primary meaning first. And third, the etymologies, which are mines of pertinent and valuable information, as appears when they are compared, not only with the results of an added century of research, but especially with the scanty or fragmentary treatment of Johnson, Junius, and Skinner, and the speculations of Horne Tooke.

Webster brought out a revised edition of the *Dictionary* in 1841, just before his death. The *Spelling Book* had meanwhile undergone many revisions and improvements. These two books, written to illuminate and explain to the American people both their language and their culture, were his contribution to American civilization.

The publishers and the editors of this latest edition of *Webster's Dictionary* have worked under the constant responsibility of maintaining Noah Webster's standards of integrity and clarity in meeting the needs of the whole modern English-speaking world.

a living language must keep pace with improvements in knowledge and with the multiplication of ideas
—Noah Webster, *A Letter to John Pickering*, 1817

DICTIONARY . . . A book containing the words of a language arranged in alphabetical order, with explanations of their meanings; a lexicon
—Noah Webster, *An American Dictionary of the English Language*, 1828

dictionary . . . **1 :** a reference book containing words usu. alphabetically arranged along with information about their forms, pronunciations, functions, etymologies, meanings, and syntactical and idiomatic uses ⟨a general ~ of the English language⟩ ⟨a monolingual ~⟩ — compare VOCABULARY ENTRY **2 a :** a reference book listing terms or names important to a particular subject or activity along with discussion of their meanings and applications ⟨a law ~⟩ ⟨a ~ of sports⟩; *broadly* **:** an encyclopedic listing ⟨a ~ of dates⟩ **b :** a reference book giving for words of one language equivalents in another ⟨an English-French ~⟩ ⟨a bilingual ~⟩ **c :** a reference book listing terms as commonly spelled together with their equivalents in some specialized system ⟨as of orthography or symbols⟩ ⟨a ~ of shorthand⟩ ⟨a pronouncing ~⟩ **3 a :** a general comprehensive list, collection, or repository ⟨a ~ of biography⟩ ⟨a usage ~⟩ **b :** vocabulary in use ⟨as in a special field⟩ **:** TERMINOLOGY ⟨the ~ of literary criticism⟩ **c :** a vocabulary of accepted terms ⟨in the ~ of the French Academy⟩ **d :** a vocabulary of the written words used by one author ⟨systematic *dictionaries* of individual authors —Hillis Miller⟩ **e :** LEXICON 4
—*Webster's Third New International Dictionary*

Webster's Third New International Dictionary

OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

UNABRIDGED

A Merriam-Webster
REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

Utilizing all the experience and resources of more than one hundred years of Merriam-Webster dictionaries

EDITOR IN CHIEF

PHILIP BABCOCK GOVE, Ph.D.

AND

THE MERRIAM-WEBSTER

EDITORIAL STAFF



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PREFACE

WEBSTER'S THIRD NEW INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY is a completely new work, redesigned, restyled, and reset. Every line of it is new. This latest unabridged Merriam-Webster is the eighth in a series which has its beginning in Noah Webster's *American Dictionary of the English Language*, 1828. On Webster's death in 1843 the unsold copies and publishing rights of his dictionary were acquired by George and Charles Merriam, who in 1847 brought out a revision edited by Noah Webster's son-in-law, Professor Chauncey A. Goodrich of Yale College. The 1847 edition became the first Merriam-Webster unabridged dictionary*. G. & C. Merriam Company now offers WEBSTER'S THIRD NEW INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY to the English-speaking world as a prime linguistic aid to interpreting the culture and civilization of today, as the first edition served the America of 1828.

As the number of students in school and college jumps to ever-increasing heights, the quantity of printed matter necessary to their education increases too. Not only are more words used more often with these increases; words must be used more economically and more efficiently both in school and out. More and more do people undertaking a new job, practicing a new hobby, or developing a new interest turn to how-to pamphlets, manuals, and books for both elementary instruction and advanced guidance. Where formerly they had time to learn by doing, they now need to begin by reading and understanding what has been recorded. A quick grasp of the meanings of words becomes necessary if one is to be successful. A dictionary opens the way to both formal learning and to the daily self-instruction that modern living requires. It is the key also to the daily newspaper and to a vast number of other periodicals that demand our attention. This edition has been prepared with a constant regard for the needs of the high school and college student, the technician, and the periodical reader, as well as of the scholar and professional. It undertakes to provide for the changes in public interest in all classes of words as manifested by what people want to read, discuss, and study. The dictionary more than ever is the indispensable instrument of understanding and progress.

G. & C. Merriam Company have produced this THIRD NEW INTERNATIONAL at a cost of over $3,500,000. The budgetary and technical planning underlying its production has been directed and coordinated since 1953 by the Company's president, Mr. Gordon J. Gallan. His activity, understanding, and cooperation have contributed indispensably to its editorial completion and have made possible the maintenance of a Merriam-Webster permanent office staff constituted according to need. This staff is in effect a faculty which specializes in different branches of knowledge much as a small college faculty does. Listed among the resident editors are a mathematician, a physicist, a chemist, a botanist, a biologist, a philosopher, a political scientist, a comparative religionist, a classicist, a historian, and a librarian as well as philologists, linguists, etymologists, and phoneticians whose specialty is the English language itself. Their academic affiliations and their degrees can be seen one by one in the "Merriam-Webster Editorial Staff" that follows this preface. Besides the office staff over two hundred other scholars and specialists have served as outside consultants in supplementary reviewing, revising, and submitting new definitions in subjects in which they are authorities. The range and experience of this special knowledge appear in the listing of their names alphabetically after the editorial staff.

In conformity with the principle that a definition, to be adequate, must be written only after an analysis of usage, the definitions in this edition are based chiefly on examples of usage collected since publication of the preceding edition. Members of the editorial staff began in 1936 a systematic reading of books, magazines, newspapers, pamphlets, catalogs, and learned journals. By the time of going to press the collection contained just under 4,500,000 such new examples of recorded usage, to be added to more than 1,665,000 citations already in the files for previous editions. Further, the citations in the indispensable many-volume *Oxford English Dictionary*, the new citations in Sir William Craigie's four-volume *Dictionary of American English* and Mitford M. Mathews' two-volume *Dictionary of Americanisms*, neither of which was available to the editors of the preceding edition, and the uncounted citations in dozens of concordances to the Bible and to works of English and American writers and in numerous books of quotations push the citation background for the definitions in this dictionary to over ten million. This figure does not include freely consulted text matter in the office library of reference books. Nor does it include thousands of textbooks in the private and academic libraries of the editors and consultants, nor books consulted in the Springfield City Library whose librarians have generously given the editorial staff ready and frequent access to its large and valuable word-hoard.

While dictionaries of special subjects, glossaries, indexes, and checklists are collected and examined to verify the existence of special words, no word has been entered in this dictionary merely on the authority of another dictionary, special or general, and no definition in this dictionary has been derived from any other dictionary (except, of course, Merriam-Webster predecessors). Learned and industrial organizations have created numerous committees of nomenclature to collect, define, and standardize the terminology in their fields. Some of the staff editors serve as advisory members of such committees. Nevertheless prescriptive and canonical definitions have not been taken over nor have recommendations been followed unless confirmed by independent investigation of usage borne out by genuine citations.

The primary objective of precise, sharp defining has been met through development of a new dictionary style based upon completely analytical one-phrase definitions throughout the book. Since the headword in a definition is intended to be modified only by structural elements restrictive in some degree and essential to each other, the use of commas either to separate or to group has been severely limited, chiefly to units in apposition or in series. The new defining pattern does not provide for a predication which conveys further expository comment. Instead of encyclopedic treatment at one place of a group of related terms, each term is defined at its own place in the alphabet. Every phrase in lowercase roman type following a heavy black colon and running to the next heavy colon or to a divisional number or letter is a complete definition of one sense of the word to which it is attached. Defining by synonym is carefully avoided by putting all unqualified or undifferentiated terms in small capital letters. Such a term in small capitals should not be considered a definition but a cross-reference to a definition of equivalent meaning that can be substituted for the small capitals.

A large number of verbal illustrations mostly from the mid-twentieth century has been woven into the defining pattern with a view to contributing considerably to the user's interest and understanding by showing a word used in context. The illustration is often a brief combination of words that has actually been used in writing and when this is so the illustration is attributed to its author or source. More than 14,000 different authors are quoted for their use of words or for the structural pattern of their words but not for their opinions or sentiments.

A number of other features are (1) the recognition and separate entry (with part-of-speech label) of verb-plus-adverb compounds (as *run down*) that function like one-word verbs in every way except for having a separable suffix, (2) the recognition (by using the label *n* for noun) that substantive open compounds (as *clothes moth*) belong in the same class as nouns written solid or hyphened, (3) the recognition (by using the label *often attrib*) of nouns that often function as adjectives but otherwise do not behave like the class of adjectives, (4) the indication (by inserting suffix-symbols, as -S or -ES, -ED/-ING/-S or -ES, -ER/-EST) of the inflectional forms of nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs at which the forms are not written out in full, (5) the recognition (by beginning entries with a lowercase letter and by inserting either the label *cap*, *usu cap*, *often cap*, or *sometimes cap*) that words vary considerably in capitalization according to circumstances and environment, (6) the recognition (by not using at all the status label *colloquial*) that it is impossible to know whether a word out of context is colloquial or not, and (7) the incorporation of abbreviations alphabetically in the main vocabulary.

In continuation of Merriam-Webster policy the editors of this new edition have held steadfastly to the three cardinal virtues of dictionary making: accuracy, clearness, and comprehensiveness. Whenever these qualities are at odds with each other, accuracy is put first and foremost, for without accuracy there could be no appeal to WEBSTER'S THIRD NEW INTERNATIONAL as an authority. Accuracy in addition to requiring freedom from error and conformity to truth requires a dictionary to state meanings in which words are in fact used, not to give editorial opinion on what their meanings should be.

In the editorial striving for clearness the editors have tried to make the definitions as readable as possible. Even so, the terminology of many subjects contains words that can be adequately and clearly explained only to those who have passed through preliminary stages of initiation, just as a knowledge of algebra is prerequisite for trigonometry. A dictionary demands of its user much understanding and no one person can understand all of it. Therefore there is no limit to the possibilities for clarification. Somewhat paradoxically a user of the dictionary benefits in proportion to his effort and knowledge, and his contribution is an essential part of the process of understanding even though it may involve only a willingness to look up a few additional words.

Comprehensiveness requires maximum coverage with a minimum of compromise. The basic aim is nothing less than coverage of the current vocabulary of standard written and spoken English. At the same time the scientific and technical vocabulary has been considerably expanded to keep pace with progress especially in physical science (as in electronics, nuclear physics, statistics, and soil science), in technology (as in rocketry, communications, automation, and synthetics), in medicine, and in the experimental phases of natural science. Therefore space has been found not only for new terms but also for new uses of old terms, for English like other living languages is in a metabolic process of constant change. The changes affect not only word stock but meaning, syntax, morphology, and pronunciation.

The demands for space have made necessary a fresh judgment on the claims of many parts of the old vocabulary. This dictionary is the result of a highly selective process in which discarding material of insubstantial or evanescent quality has gone hand in hand with adding terms that have obtained a place in the language. It confines itself strictly to generic words and their functions, forms, sounds, and meanings as distinguished from proper names that are not generic. Selection is guided by usefulness, and usefulness is determined by the degree to which terms most likely to be looked for are included. Many obsolete and comparatively useless or obscure words have been omitted. These include in general words that had become obsolete before 1755 unless found in well-known major works of a few major writers.

In definitions of words of many meanings the earliest ascertainable meaning is given first. Meanings of later derivation are arranged in the order shown to be most probable by dated evidence and semantic development. This arrangement applies alike to all meanings whether standard, technical, scientific, historical, or obsolete. No definitions are grouped alphabetically by subject labels. In fact this edition uses very few subject labels. It depends upon the definition for incorporating necessary subject orientation.

The pronunciation editor is Mr. Edward Artin. This edition shows as far as possible the pronunciations prevailing in general cultivated conversational usage, both informal and formal, throughout the English-speaking world. It does not attempt to dictate what that usage should be. It shows a

*The successors in the Merriam-Webster series are *American Dictionary of the English Language*, popularly known as the *Unabridged*, 1864, edited by Dr. Noah Porter, president of Yale College; *Webster's International Dictionary*, 1890, Noah Porter, editor in chief; *Webster's New International Dictionary*, 1909, Dr. William Torrey Harris, U. S. Commissioner of Education, editor in chief, and F. Sturges Allen, general editor; *Webster's New International Dictionary, Second Edition*, 1934, Dr. William Allan Neilson, president of Smith College, editor in chief, and Dr. Thomas A. Knott, general editor.

wide variety of acceptable pronunciations based on a large file of transcriptions made by attentive listening to actual educated speech in all fields and in all parts of the country—the speech of those expecting to be completely understood by their hearers. The facility with which such speech can be checked today by television, radio, and recordings has made it possible to show more representative and more realistic pronunciations than in the past.

To this end the Merriam-Webster pronunciation key has been revised. Many of the symbols of preceding editions have been retained, some with slight alteration, a few substitutions have been made, and some symbols that have outlived their usefulness have been dropped altogether. It is still fundamentally a diacritical key that makes use of many of the conventions of English spelling and is based on the principles that every distinct significant sound should have a distinct symbol to represent it and that no sound should be represented in more than one way. The elimination of symbols for all nonsignificant differences in sound makes it possible for transcriptions to convey to speakers in different parts of the English-speaking world sounds proper to their own speech. The new pronunciation alphabet is designed to represent clearly the standard speech of educated Americans.

It should be clearly understood that in striving to show realistic pronunciations definite limitations are fixed by the very nature of a dictionary. Each word must be isolated and considered apart from its place in connected spoken discourse. It is impracticable to show in a dictionary many kinds of variations—rising or falling pitch, syllabic emphasis or lack of emphasis, contraction or prolongation of sounds—to which the pronunciation of a word is susceptible under the influence of other words temporarily associated with it. Some of these variations are discussed under several headings in "Guide to Pronunciation", which contains also several paragraphs on the subject of correctness in pronunciation.

The etymologist for this edition is Dr. Charles R. Sleeth. In the etymologies the aim has been to retrace step by step the line of transmission by which the words have come down to modern English from the language in which they are first recorded. The present work adheres in this respect to the sound general principles governing the presentation of word histories in previous editions and indeed applies them with a consistency that has not previously been attained. With particular care it traces back to Middle English every word which is recorded in Middle English; also it carefully distinguishes the age of borrowings from French by giving the source language as Old French if the word came into English before 1300, as Middle French if it came into English between 1300 and 1600, and as French only if it came into English in the seventeenth century or later.

The etymologies fall into four general groups based on the origins of English words. Native words (as *hound*) that have been in the language as long as it has existed are traced back first through Middle English to Old English and then to Germanic languages other than English and to Indo-European languages other than Germanic. Old and well-established borrowings (as *chief*, *add*, and *dialect*) that have been in English since medieval or Renaissance times and come from languages, usually French, Latin, or often indirectly Greek, which belong, like English, to the Indo-European language family are traced back through their immediate source to their ultimate source in as much detail as native words. Many more recent borrowings (as *éclair*, *anile*, *hubris*, *sforzando*, *lariat*, *dachshund*, *smorgasbord*, *galore*, *muzhik*, and *karma*) are incorporated into the network of Indo-European etymology more thoroughly than in earlier dictionaries by going beyond the immediate source to either a list of cognates or a cross-reference to another entry. Borrowings (as *bushido*, *tepee*, *sheikh*, *sampan*, and *taboo*) from non-Indo-European languages are traced to the immediate source and analyzed into their parts if in the source language they are compounds or derivatives.

In the modern technical vocabulary of the sciences it is difficult if not impossible to adhere strictly to the principle of tracing step by step the line of transmission of a word, because such vocabulary has expanded rapidly in numerous fields and has been transmitted freely across language boundaries. Very few works of reference give full or systematic information about the language of origin of technical terms in any one field, and consequently it is impossible for the etymological staff of a general dictionary to garner and present such information about the technical terms of all fields. The present work attempts a new solution of this problem by introducing the label ISV (for International Scientific Vocabulary), for use in the etymology of such words when their language of origin is not positively ascertainable but they are known to be current in at least one language other than English. Examples of the use of ISV and further details about it are given in "Explanatory Notes", 7.6. Some ISV words (like *haploid*) have been created by taking a word with a rather general and simple meaning from one of the languages of antiquity, usually Latin or Greek, and conferring upon it a very specific and complicated meaning for the purposes of modern scientific discourse. More typically, however, ISV words are compounds or derivatives, made up of constituents that can be found entered in their own alphabetical position with their own ulterior etymology, again generally involving Latin or Greek. In either case an ISV etymology as given in the present work incorporates the word into the system of Indo-European etymology as well as if the immediate source language were known and stated. At the same time, use of ISV avoids the often untenable implication that the word in question was coined in English, and recognizes that the word as such is a product of the modern world and gets only its raw materials, so to speak, from antiquity.

The scheme of biological classification used has been concerted in consultation between Dr. Mairé Weir Kay, staff biologist, and specialists in the several divisions of taxonomy. It is planned to coordinate in the broadest way with current professional usage and specifically avoids undue reliance on any single school or system. The total taxonomic coverage is far more extensive than this characterization might imply and is designed to include and link with the preferred scheme both historically important though now disused terminology and the more important terms pertinent to divergent schools of professional thought (as in the question of whether the leguminous plants constitute one or several families).

Words that are believed to be trademarks have been investigated in the files of the United States Patent Office. No investigation has been made of common law trademark rights in any word since such investigation is impracticable. Those that have current registrations are shown with an initial capital and are also identified as trademarks. The inclusion of any word in this dictionary is not, however, an expression of the publishers' opinion on whether or not it is subject to proprietary rights. Indeed, no definition in this dictionary is to be regarded as affecting the validity of any trademark.

This dictionary has a vocabulary of over 450,000 words. It would have been easy to make the vocabulary larger although the book, in the format of the preceding edition, could hardly hold any more pages or be any thicker. By itself, the number of entries is, however, not of first importance. The number of words available is always far in excess of and for a one-volume dictionary many times the number that can possibly be included. To make all the changes mentioned only to come out with the same number of pages and the same number of vocabulary entries as in the preceding edition would allow little or no opportunity for new words and new senses. The compactness and legibility of Times Roman, a typeface new to Merriam-Webster dictionaries, have made possible more words to a line and more lines to a column than in the preceding edition, and a larger size page makes a better proportioned book.

The preparation of this edition has absorbed 757 editor-years. This figure does not include the time of typists, photocopiers, and clerical assistants or the time of over 200 consultants. The book appears, like its predecessor, after more than ten years of active full-time preparation. It is hardly necessary to observe that no one editor could harmonize all the diverse and disparate matter by reading and criticizing every line or even determine and keep firm control over editorial policy, nor could an editorial board of fixed membership. Instead the editor in chief has used his editors one by one and has delegated multiple responsibilities to them individually as occasion required. In this way members of the Merriam-Webster staff have been grouped and regrouped to form hundreds of task forces performing simultaneously thousands of missions. The editor can say with gratitude and relief that the accomplishment is not a one-man dictionary. "What individual", asks Noah Webster in his preface, "is competent to trace to their source, and define in all their various applications, popular, scientific, and technical, sixty or seventy thousand words!"

WEBSTER'S THIRD NEW INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY is a collaborative effort. Without the cooperation of the scholarly, scientific, and technical world, the specialized guidance of our outside consultants, and the ingenuity of the compositors and printers, G. & C. Merriam Company and its permanent editorial staff could not have brought the work to its successful culmination. Those most deeply involved with overall responsibility deserve special mention here. Three associate editors, Mr. Artin, Dr. Kay, and Dr. Sleeth, have already been named in this preface. Among others who have shared large responsibilities are these associate editors: Miss Anne M. Driscoll, Dr. Philip H. Goepp, Mr. Hubert P. Kelsey, Dr. Howard G. Rhoads, and Dr. H. Bosley Woolf; two assistant editors, Miss Ervina E. Foss and Mrs. Laverne W. King; and the departmental secretary, Mrs. Christine M. Mullen.

It is now fairly clear that before the twentieth century is over every community of the world will have learned how to communicate with all the rest of humanity. In this process of intercommunication the English language has already become the most important language on earth. This new Merriam-Webster unabridged is the record of this language as it is written and spoken. It is offered with confidence that it will supply in full measure that information on the general language which is required for accurate, clear, and comprehensive understanding of the vocabulary of today's society.

Springfield, Mass. PHILIP B. GOVE
June 1, 1961

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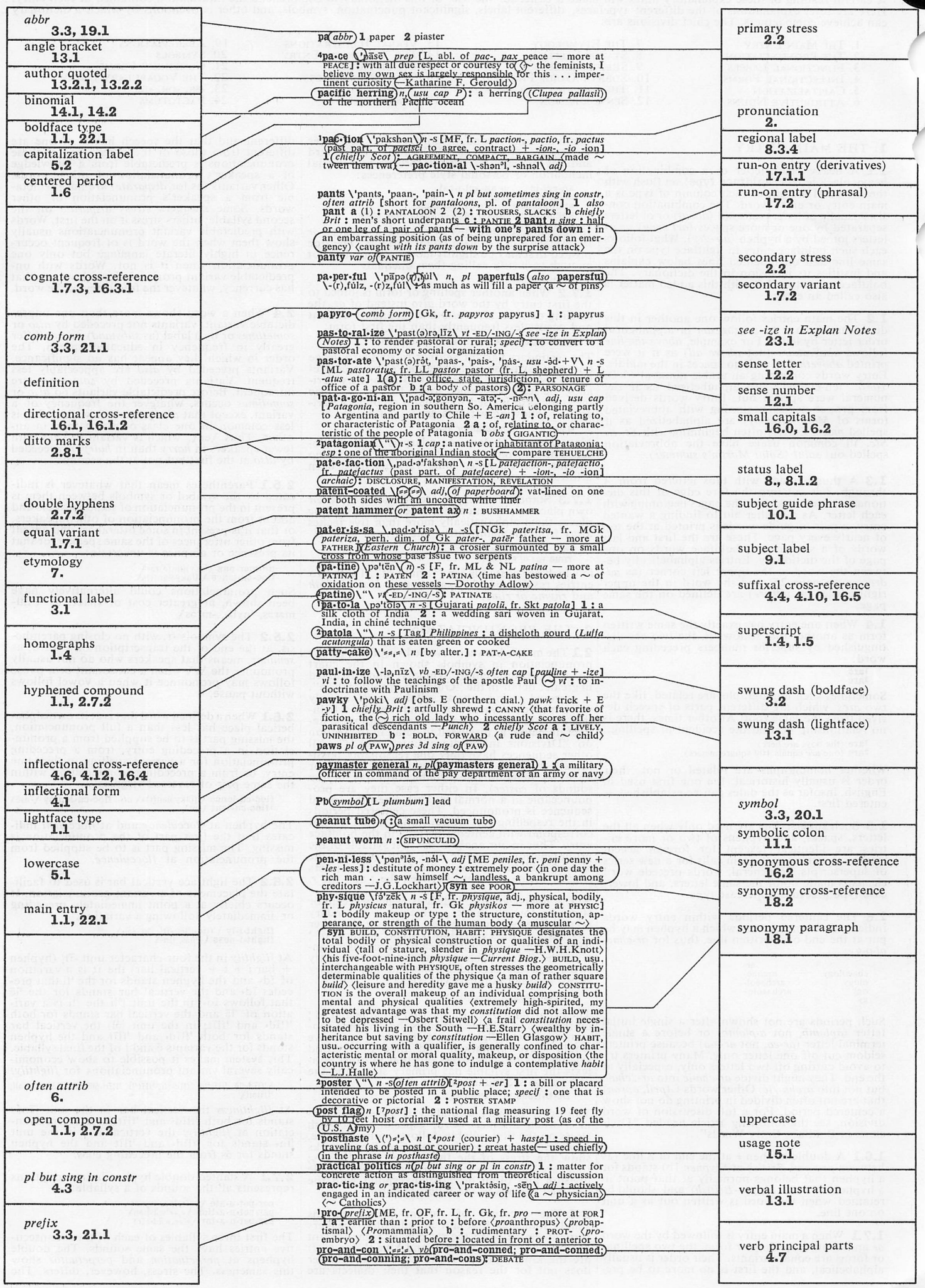
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EXPLANATORY CHART

THE CENTER COLUMN on this page contains entries taken from the dictionary. One or more parts of each entry has an oval line linked to a box in th margin. The term in the box is our name for the circled convention. The number in the box refers to a section in the "Explanatory Notes" following.



EXPLANATORY NOTES

A careful reading of these explanatory notes will make it easier for the user of this dictionary to comprehend the information contained at each entry. Here are brief explanations of the different typefaces, different labels, significant punctuation, symbols, and other conventions by which a dictionary can achieve compactness. The chief divisions are:

1. The Main Entry
2. The Pronunciation
3. Functional Labels
4. Inflectional Forms
5. Capitalization
6. Attributive Nouns
7. The Etymology
8. Status Labels
9. Subject Labels
10. Subject Guide Phrases
11. The Symbolic Colon
12. Sense Division
13. Verbal Illustrations
14. The Taxonomic Entry
15. Usage Notes
16. Cross-References
17. Run-On Entries
18. Synonymies
19. Abbreviations
20. Symbols
21. Combining Forms
22. The Vocabulary Entry
23. -er, -or, -ize
24. Factotums

1. THE MAIN ENTRY

1.1 A heavy black letter or a combination of heavy black letters (**boldface type**) set flush with the left-hand margin of each column of type is a main entry or entry word. The combination consists usually of letters set solid (*about*) or of letters separated by one or more spaces (*art song*) or of letters joined by a hyphen (*air-dry*). What follows each such boldface entry in lightface type on the same line and on indented lines below explains and justifies its inclusion in the dictionary. The boldface entry together with this added matter is also called an entry.

1.2 The main entries follow one another in this dictionary from *a* to *zyzzogeton* in alphabetical order letter by letter. For example, *above the line* follows *abovestairs* (not *above all*) as if it were printed *abovetheline* with no spaces in the middle. Entry words containing an arabic numeral (*3-D, 1080* "ten-eighty") are alphabetized as if the numeral were spelled out. Entry words derived from proper names beginning with abbreviated forms of *Mac-* (*McCoy*) are alphabetized as if spelled *mac-*. Entries often beginning with *St.* or *Ste.* in common usage have the abbreviation spelled out *saint* (*Saint Martin's summer*).

1.3 A thumb index with tabs lettered from *A* through *Z* is cut into the fore edge of this dictionary to aid in locating the pages beginning with each letter. As a further aid to finding a wanted entry, a pair of guide words is printed at the top of nearly every page. These are the first and last words of a sequence of boldface words on one page of the dictionary. Entries alphabetically between the word in the upper left corner (as *addressee* on page 25) and the word in the upper right corner (as *adhere*) are defined on the same page.

1.4 When one entry has exactly the same written form as another that follows it, the two are distinguished by superior numbers preceding each word:

¹arc
²arc

Sometimes such homographs are related, like the two *arcs*, which are different parts of speech derived from the same root. At other times, there is no relationship beyond the accident of spelling:

¹are ⟨the boys *are* here⟩
²are ⟨one *are* equals 100 square meters⟩

Whether homographs are related or not, their order is usually historical: the one first used in English, insofar as the dates can be established, is entered first.

1.5 Such superscripts are used only when all the letters, spaces, and hyphens of two or more entries are identical (except for foreign accent marks). A variation in form calls for a new series of superscripts. In general, words precede word elements made up of the same letters, and lowercase type precedes uppercase type.

1.6 The centered periods within entry words indicate division points at which a hyphen may be put at the end of a written line, thus for *ar•chae•ol•o•gy:*

	ar-
chaeology	archae-
ology	archaeol-
ogy	archaeolo-
gy	

Such periods are not shown after a single initial letter (*aplomb*, not *a•plomb*) or before a single terminal letter (*ar•ea*, not *ar•e•a*) because printers seldom cut off one letter only. Many printers try to avoid cutting off two letters only, especially at the end. They might divide *ar•cha•ic* into *ar-/chaic* but not into *archa-/ic*. Other words (*April, apron*) that are not often divided in printing do not show a centered period. For a full discussion of word division, see the following article headed "Divisions in Boldface Entry Words".

1.6.1 A double hyphen = at the end of a line (as between *pro* and *British* at *¹hyphen* 1b) stands for a hyphen that belongs normally at that point in a hyphened word (as *pro-British*) and should be retained when the word is written out as a unit on one line.

1.7.1 When a main entry is followed by the word *or* and another spelling or form, the two spellings or forms are equal variants. Their order is usually alphabetical, and the first is no more to be preferred than the second, or third, or fourth, if three or four are joined by *or*. Both or all are standard and any one may be used according to personal inclination or personal style preferences:

an•gel•ic . . . *or* **an•gel•i•cal**
ar•dor *or* **ar•dour**
arc of recess *or* **arc of recession**
angel cake *or* **angel food** *or* **angel food cake**

If the alphabetical order of variants joined by *or* is reversed, they remain equal variants. The one printed first may be slightly more common but not enough to justify calling them unequal:

cad•dis *or* **cad•dice**

1.7.2 When another spelling or form is joined to the first entry by the word *also* instead of *or*, the spelling or form after *also* is a secondary variant and occurs less frequently than the first form:

car•bo•ther•mic . . . *also* **car•bo•ther•mal**

The secondary variant belongs to standard usage and may for personal or regional reasons be preferred by some. If there are two secondary variants, the second is joined to the first by *or*. Once the italic *also* is used to signal a secondary variant, all following variants are joined by *or:*

aso•ka . . . *also* **as•ak** *or* **as•ok**

No evaluation below secondary is implied. Absence of a variant does not mean that there is no variant; for example, some variants have been arbitrarily omitted.

1.7.3 Standard variants are reentered at their own places alphabetically whenever their spelling places them alphabetically more than five inches away from the main entry. The form of entry is

loth *var of* LOATH
rime *var of* RHYME

in which *var of* stands for "variant of". These two entries result from the main entries *loath or loth* and *rhyme or rime*.

2. THE PRONUNCIATION

2.1 The matter between reversed virgules \\ is the pronunciation in symbols shown in the chart headed "Pronunciation Symbols" and discussed in greater detail in the "Guide to Pronunciation". A centered period • shows syllable divisions only when a given sequence of sounds can be syllabified in more than one way without employing deliberate pause, as discussed in detail in the section on "Divisions in Boldface Entry Words". All other sequences have only one reasonably possible syllabication (as in the sounds of *admit*) or have no determinable syllabication (as in the sounds of *easter*). In either case they are pronounceable in a normal manner when the sound sequence is pronounced. These centered periods in the respelling for pronunciation often do not correspond with centered periods in the boldface entry. Thus in our analysis the first syllable of the pronunciation of *metric* ends with \e\ and the second syllable begins with \t\, but printers usually divide the word between the *t* and the *r*.

2.2 A high-set mark ' indicates primary accent or stress; a low-set mark , indicates a secondary accent. The two are often set one over the other ˈˌ to indicate stress variation. Two occurrences of ˈ within a pronunciation indicate that in some contexts the first syllable so marked has secondary stress and the second so marked has primary stress, in other contexts vice versa:

ben•e•fi•cial \ˌbenəˈfishəl\

The occurrence of (') on the first syllable and of ˈ on the second syllable indicates that in some contexts the first syllable has a degree of stress we would leave unmarked and that the second syllable has primary stress but that in other contexts the first syllable has primary stress and the second has secondary stress:

fic•ti•tious \(ˈ)fikˈtishəs\

The order primary-secondary is especially common when another word, especially one with stress on the first syllable, follows without pause, as when the first word is attributive. Stress marks show the stress of the first vowel that follows; they are not necessarily indicators of syllable division and often do not correspond with the centered periods in the boldface entry.

2.3 The presence of variant pronunciations simply indicates that not all educated speakers pronounce the word the same way. Some variant pronunciations (as \ˈbərd\ and \ˈbə̄d\ for *bird*) are the kind that one speaker uses but another does not for the reason that their dialects are different and that the speech habits of one are different from those of the other. One of these pronunciations is predictable from a knowledge of a speaker's pronunciation of other words. Other variants (as for *disparate*) are not predictable from a speaker's pronunciation of other words. Some speakers stress *disparate* on the second syllable; others stress it on the first. Words with predictable variant pronunciations usually show them when the word is of frequent occurrence in highly literate language but only one pronunciation when it is not. Words with unpredictable variant pronunciations show any that has currency, whatever the frequency of the word.

2.4 When a word shows more than one unpredictable variant, variants not preceded by *also* or *sometimes* or by a label (as *substand*) do not differ greatly in frequency in educated speech. The order in which they appear has no significance. Variants preceded by *also* are appreciably less frequent. Variants preceded by *sometimes* are infrequent. Before predictable variants no *also* or *sometimes* occurs, whatever the frequency of a variant, except that *also* precedes a variant that is less common in one class of words than in another. Thus \er\, which is variant to \ar\ with fewer speakers in *harry* than in *hairy*, is preceded by *also* at the first but not at the second.

2.5.1 Parentheses mean that whatever is indicated by the symbol or symbols between them is present in the pronunciation of some speakers and absent from the pronunciation of other speakers, or that it is present in some utterances and absent from other utterances of the same speaker, or that its presence or absence is uncertain:

nu•mer•ous \ˈn(y)üm(ə)rəs\
floc•cu•lence \ˈfläkyələn(t)s\

Such pronunciations could alternatively have been shown, at greater cost of space, as \ˈnümərəs, ˈnyü-, -mrəs\

2.5.2 The symbols (r, with no closing parenthesis, at the end of the transcription of a word, as *seminar*, means that speakers who do not usually pronounce the \r\ when a consonant or a pause follows may pronounce it when a vowel follows without pause.

2.6.1 When a defined word that is at its own alphabetical place has less than a full pronunciation, the missing part is to be supplied from a pronunciation in a preceding entry, from a preceding pronunciation for a variant spelling in the same entry, or from a preceding pronunciation within the same pair of reversed virgules:

floc•cu•lence \ˈfläkyələn(t)s\ *also* **floc•cu•len•cy** \-nsē\
¹floc•cu•lent \-nt\

The hyphen at *flocculency* and at *flocculent* indicates that the first part of the pronunciation is missing. The missing part is to be supplied from the pronunciation at *flocculence*.

2.6.2 The lightface vertical bar is used to facilitate the placement of a variant pronunciation. It occurs chiefly at a point immediately preceding or immediately following a variation.

flight•i•ly \ˈflīd•|ᵊlē, -īt|, |ᵊli, |əl-\
flight•i•ness \|ēnəs, |in-\

At *flightily* in the four-character unit -īt| (hyphen + bar i + t + vertical bar) the īt is a variation of īd• and the hyphen stands for the ˈfl that precedes īd• and the vertical bar stands for the ᵊlē that follows īd•; in the unit |ᵊli the ᵊli is a variation of ᵊlē and the vertical bar stands for both ˈflīd• and ˈflīt; in the unit |əl- the vertical bar stands for both ˈflīd• and ˈflīt and the hyphen stands for the variants ē and i of the final syllable. This system makes it possible to show economically several variant pronunciations for *flightily:*

\ˈflīd•ᵊlē, ˈflītᵊlē, ˈflīd•ᵊli, ˈflītᵊli, ˈflīd•əlē, ˈflītəlē, ˈflīd•əli, ˈflītəli\

At *flightiness* the vertical bar in the unit |ēnəs stands for both ˈflīd• and ˈflīt from the pronunciation at *flightily;* the vertical bar in the unit |in- stands for ˈflīd• and ˈflīt and the hyphen stands for ənəs from the preceding ēnəs.

2.7.1 A slanted double hyphen in transcriptions represents all the sounds of a syliable:

per•pet•u•ate \pə(r)ˈpechəˌwāt . . . \
per•pet•u•a•tion \ᵊˌpᵊᵊchəˈwāshən\
per•pet•u•a•tor \ᵊˈpᵊᵊchəˌwād•ə(r) . . . \

The first three syllables of each of these consecutive entries have the same sounds. The double hyphens at *perpetuation* and *perpetuator* show this sameness. The stress, however, differs. The

stress on the second syllable is primary in *perpetuate* and *perpetuator* but secondary in the middle word.

2.7.2 Open compounds of two or more English words usually have no pronunciation (as at *barn dance*). Such members of solid or hyphened compounds as are whole English words often show only the stress indicated by double hyphens and stress marks:

heartache \'ˌ=ˌ=\
waterworthy \'=ˌ=ˌ=\
fort·let \'=lət\
cata·baptist \'kad·əˌ=ˌ=\

The sounds of the syllables represented by such double hyphens can be found at the main entry of the elements (as at *heart* and *ache*, at *fort*, and at *baptist*). Thus in the consecutive entries

den·e·ga·tion \ˌdenə'gāshən\
denehole \'=ˌ=\

the value of the syllables of the second should be sought at *dene* and at *hole*, not in the representation of the first two syllables in the pronunciation at *denegation*.

2.8.1 A ditto mark " in a pronunciation stands for the sounds of the nearest preceding pronounced entry. The orthographic division for this preceding entry also applies unless another is shown. For an entry having the same sequence of letters as a preceding entry but not followed by reversed virgules, no commitment about pronunciation is made:

¹carp \'kärp, 'kȧp\
²carp \"\
carp *abbr*

¹in·dict \ən'dīt, *usu* -īd·+V\ *vt*
²indict *vt . . . obs*

keelboat \'ˌ=\
keel·boat·man \"mən\

¹keel·er \'kēlə(r)\
²keeler \"\
³keeler \"\
kee·ler polygraph \"-\

²carp has the same pronunciation as *¹carp*, but no pronunciation is to be understood for *carp* the abbreviation. No pronunciation is to be understood for the obsolete *²indict*. (In general, words obsolete in their entire range of meaning have an indicated pronunciation only if they occur in Shakespeare.) The stress on the first two syllables of *keelboatman* is the same as for *keelboat;* the sounds for *keel* and *boat* should be sought at the entry for each. *²keeler* and *³keeler* have the same pronunciation and division as *¹keeler; keeler* in *keeler polygraph* has the same pronunciation as *¹keeler* but its division differs.

2.8.2 If the entry at which the value of a ditto mark is to be sought contains variants not identical in pronunciation, the value of the ditto mark is the pronunciation of the variant of the same spelling in a preceding entry:

¹ap·o·dal \'apəd³l\ *also* **ap·o·dan** \-dən, -d³n\ *or* **ap·o·dous** \-dəs\
²apodal \"\ *also* **apodan** \"\

2.9 When a word is composed of a combining form or prefix and a whole English word, often the transcription consists of a pronunciation for the first element followed by a plus sign. The plus sign means that the sounds and the orthographic division for the second element should be sought at the entry for that word. If other compounds with the same first element follow, their pronunciation may be shown by the formula \"+\:

geo·positive \ˌjē(ˌ)ō+\
geo·potential \"+\

In many contexts a primary stress shown for the second element at its entry may alter to secondary in the compound.

2.10 The symbol *R* preceding variants indicates the pronunciation of speakers who consistently pronounce most postvocalic *r*'s; *–R* indicates the pronunciation of speakers who consistently have no \r\ sound for any *r* for which educated usage sanctions pronunciation without the sound. At

gov·er·nor *R* 'gəv(ə)nər *also* -vərnər, *–R* -v(ə)nə(r\

the purpose of the labeling is to indicate that speakers who ordinarily have \r\ for postvocalic *r* (as for the last *r* in *governor*) often do not have \r\ for the first *r* in the word (see DISSIMILATION in "Guide to Pronunciation"). Some speakers sometimes drop, sometimes retain \r\ in the same environment (as in *card, art*), many consistently drop \r\ in some environments (as in *card, art*) but consistently pronounce it in others (as in *bird, hurt*). Our *–R* transcriptions, however, do not record this usage.

2.11 The low-set minus sign ˍ cancels a stress at the same point in a pronunciation shown elsewhere, as in a preceding variant or in a pronunciation for a preceding word in another entry:

cam·era·man \'=(ə)=ˌman, -ˌmən . . . \
¹mer·cu·ri·al \ˌmər'kyůrēəl, ˌmə(r)'k- . . . \
ac·tiv·ism \'aktəˌvizəm . . . \
¹ac·tiv·ist \-ˍvȯst\

2.12 The symbol ÷ precedes variants which occur in educated speech but to the acceptability of which many take strong exception, as to the second variant at *cu·po·la* \'kyůpələ, ÷ -pəˌlō\ because of the rarity or unprecedentedness of \ō\ for *a*, or to the second variant at *gon·do·la* \'gändələ, ÷ gän'dōlə\ because the stress in the language of origin is on the first syllable. Sometimes the variant to which exception is taken is the commonest of all and is given first, as at *sacrilegious*. If not repeated, ÷ applies only to the variant that it immediately precedes.

3. FUNCTIONAL LABELS

3.1 An italic label that indicates part of speech or some other functional classification follows the pronunciation or, if no pronunciation is given, the main entry. The eight traditional parts of speech are thus indicated:

ac·tive . . . *adj*	(adjective)
across . . . *adv*	(adverb)
al·though . . . *conj*	(conjunction)
alas . . . *interj*	(interjection)
act . . . *n*	(noun)
across . . . *prep*	(preposition)
he . . . *pron*	(pronoun)
act . . . *vb*	(verb)

3.2 If a verb is both transitive and intransitive, the labels *vt* and *vi* introduce the subdivisions:

act . . . *vb* . . . *vt* . . . ~ *vi*

The character ~ is a boldface swung dash used to stand for the main entry (as *act*) and mark the subdivisions of the verb.
If there is no subdivision, *vt* or *vi* takes the place of *vb:*

ac·ti·fy . . . *vt*

Definition of a verb as transitive does not preclude intransitive usage, although it may be uncommon. On occasion most transitive verbs get used intransitively.

3.3 Other italicized labels sometimes occurring in the same position as the part-of-speech label are:

atty *abbr*	(abbreviation, see 19)
anth- . . . *comb form*	(combining form, see 21)
ante- . . . *prefix*	
Ac *symbol*	(symbol, see 20)
may . . . *verbal auxiliary*	
whoa . . . *v imper*	(imperative verb)
me·thinks . . . *vb impersonal*	(impersonal verb)

Occasionally, two or more functional labels are combined, as *n or adj;* see also 19.3.

4. INFLECTIONAL FORMS

4.1 A plural for nearly all standard nouns is explicitly or implicitly shown in this dictionary. If a plural is irregular in any way, the form is given in full in boldface following the label *n, pl:*

man . . . *n, pl* **men**
mouse . . . *n, pl* **mice**
da·tum . . . *n, pl* **da·ta**
mother-in-law . . . *n, pl* **mothers-in-law**

4.2 If there are two or more plurals, all are written out in full and joined by *or* or *also* to indicate whether the forms are equal or secondary variants (see also 1.7.1 and 1.7.2):

fish . . . *n, pl* **fish** *or* **fishes**
court-martial . . . *n, pl* **courts-martial** *also* **court-martials**
fun·gus . . . *n, pl* **fun·gi** . . . *also* **funguses**
beef . . . *n, pl* **beefs** . . . *or* **beeves** . . . *also* **beef**
crux . . . *n, pl* **cruxes** . . . *also* **cru·ces**

4.3 Nouns that are plural in form and regularly used in plural construction are labeled *n pl* (without a comma):

en·vi·rons . . . *n pl*
feazings *n pl*
da·na·i·dae . . . *n pl*

If the plural form is not always construed as a plural, the label continues with an applicable qualification:

ge·net·ics . . . *n pl but sing in constr*
pol·i·tics . . . *n pl but sing or pl in constr*
math·e·mat·ics . . . *n pl but usu sing in constr*

in which *sing in constr* stands for "singular in construction" and means that the entry word takes a singular verb.

4.4 A noun that has only a regular English plural formed by adding the suffix *-s* or the suffix *-es* or by changing a final *-y* to *-i-* and adding the suffix *-es* is indicated by an -S or -ES following the label *n:*

bird . . . *n* -S
love . . . *n* -S
wish . . . *n* -ES
sky . . . *n* -ES
ba·by . . . *n* -ES

All standard English nouns can have regular English plurals. Such endings are given analogically in this dictionary to nouns that may be little used in the plural. All that their presence means in cases of doubtful frequency is that these plurals are available for use if needed; it does not bar the use of a non-English plural if known.

4.5 Plurals are usually omitted at compounds containing a terminal element that corresponds to a whole English word whose plural is regular and is shown at its own place. At

blackbird . . . *n*
arrow grass *n*
cake-eater . . . *n*
bio·ecology . . . *n*

the plurals are omitted because they can be found at *bird, grass, eater,* and *ecology*. At words (as *bioecology*) that may be unfamiliar, an etymology consisting of the elements of a compound word shows the element at which an omitted plural can be looked up. Plurals are often not indicated at nonstandard terms. At compounds with doubtful irregular plurals, the plural forms are written out in full. For a full discussion on the way English plurals are formed see the following article headed "Plurals".

4.6 A plural form that falls alphabetically more than five inches from the main entry is entered at its own alphabetical place:

bows *pl of* BOW
boxes *pl of* BOX
mice . . . *pl of* MOUSE
geni·i *pl of* GENIUS

Such an entry does not specify whether it is the only plural; it simply tells where to look for relevant information. At *genius* the variant plurals *geniuses* and *genii* are shown. The plural *geniuses* is not a main entry because it falls within five inches alphabetically of the main entry of *genius*.

4.7 The principal parts of all standard verbs are explicitly or implicitly given in this dictionary. These principal parts, besides the main entry, are four: the past, the past participle, the present participle, and the present 3d singular. They are printed in that order in boldface whenever any one of them has an irregular or unexpected combination of letters:

see . . . *vb* **saw** . . . **seen** . . . **seeing** . . . **sees**
make . . . *vb* **made** . . . **made** . . . **making** . . . **makes**
hit . . . *vb* **hit** . . . **hit** . . . **hitting** . . . **hits**
trap . . . *vb* **trapped** . . . **trapped** . . . **trapping** . . . **traps**
cha·grin . . . *vt* **chagrined** . . . **chagrined** . . . **chagrining** . . . **chagrins**
dye . . . *vb* **dyed** . . . **dyed** . . . **dyeing** . . . **dyes**
tie . . . *vb* **tied** . . . **tied** . . . **tying** . . . **ties**
volley . . . *vb* **volleyed** . . . **volleyed** . . . **volleying** . . . **volleys**
emcee . . . *vb* **emceed** . . . **emceed** . . . **emceeing** . . . **emcees**

4.8 Whenever any of the four parts has a variant all parts are written out in full:

sky . . . *vb* **skied** *or* **skyed** . . . **skied** *or* **skyed** . . . **skying** . . . **skies**
burn . . . *vb* **burned** . . . *or* **burnt** . . . **burned** *or* **burnt** . . . **burning** . . . **burns**
ring . . . *vb* **rang** . . . *also* **rung** . . . **rung** . . . **ringing** . . . **rings**
show . . . *vb* **showed** . . . **shown** . . . *or* **showed** . . . **showing** . . . **shows**
dwell . . . *vb* **dwelt** . . . *also* **dwelled** . . . **dwelt** *also* **dwelled** . . . **dwelling** . . . **dwells**
drink . . . *vb* **drank** . . . *or dial* **drunk** . . . **drunk** . . . *or archaic* **drunk·en** . . . **drinking** . . . **drinks**

4.9 If the four spaces usually occupied by inflectional forms cannot (for lack of evidence) all be filled, the surviving forms that can be given are identified by an italic label:

aby or **abye** . . . *vb, past or past part* **abought**

4.10 Verbs are considered regular when they have in their past a terminal *-ed* which is added with no other change except dropping a final *-e* or changing a final *-y* to *-i-*. The principal parts for these verbs are indicated by adding -ED/-ING/-S or -ED/-ING/-ES to represent the past and past participle endings (*-ed*), the present participle ending (*-ing*), and the present 3d singular ending (*-s* or *-es*):

bark . . . *vb* -ED/-ING/-S
wish . . . *vb* -ED/-ING/-ES
stone . . . *vb* -ED/-ING/-S
ba·by . . . *vt* -ED/-ING/-ES

4.11 Principal parts are usually omitted at compounds containing a terminal element or related homograph whose principal parts are regular and are shown at its own place. At

freewheel . . . *vi*
overdrive . . . *vt*
un·wrap . . . *vt*

the principal parts are not given because they can be found at *wheel, drive,* and *wrap*. An etymology consisting of the elements of a compound verb shows the element at which omitted principal parts can be looked up. Principal parts are often not given at nonstandard terms or at verbs of relatively low frequency.

4.12 A principal verb part that falls alphabetically more than five inches away from the main entry is entered at its own alphabetical place if there is no entry that is a homograph:

burned *past of* BURN
shoving *pres part of* SHOVE
denies *pres 3d sing of* DENY

4.13 All adjectives and adverbs that have comparatives and superlatives with the suffixes *-er* and *-est* have these forms explicitly or implicitly shown in this dictionary. They are written out in full in boldface when they are irregular or when they double a final consonant:

red . . . *adj* **redder** . . . **reddest**
cheer·ful . . . *adj, sometimes* **cheerfuller** . . . *sometimes* **cheerfullest**
well . . . *adv* **bet·ter** . . . **best**

4.14 When they are formed by simple addition of *-er* and *-est* with no change except dropping of final *-e* or changing of final *-y* to *-i-*, these forms are indicated by -ER/-EST following the part-of-speech label:

green . . . *adj* -ER/-EST
lucky . . . *adj* -ER/-EST
re·mote . . . *adj, often* -ER/-EST
soon . . . *adv* -ER/-EST
ear·ly . . . *adv* -ER/-EST

4.15 Comparatives and superlatives are usually omitted at compounds containing a constituent element whose inflection is shown at its own place. At

kindhearted . . . *adj*
un•lucky . . . *adj*

kinderhearted and *unluckiest* are omitted because -ER and -EST are shown at *kind* and at *lucky*. Similarly the comparatives and superlatives of adverbs are often omitted when an adjective homograph shows them, as at *flat* and *hot*.

4.16 Comparatives and superlatives that fall alphabetically more than five inches away from the main entry are entered at their own alphabetical places:

hotter *comparative of* HOT
hottest *superlative of* HOT

4.17 Showing *-er* and *-est* forms does not imply anything more about the use of *more* and *most* with a simple adjective or adverb than that the comparative and superlative degrees can often be expressed in either way (*luckier* or *more lucky*, *smoothest* or *most smooth*).

4.18 A few pronouns have identified case forms:

her . . . *pron, objective case of* SHE

5. CAPITALIZATION

5.1 Except for trademarks and some abbreviations and symbols the main entries in this dictionary are set lowercase. The extent to which usage calls for an initial uppercase letter is indicated in one of five ways. Four of these consist of an italic label:

cap = almost always capitalized initially
usu cap = more often capitalized than not; capitalized approximately two to one
often cap = as likely to be capitalized as not; acceptable one way or the other
sometimes cap = more often not capitalized than capitalized; not usually capitalized

The fifth is absence of one of these labels, which indicates that the word is almost never capitalized except under irrelevant circumstances (as beginning a sentence:

french . . . *n, cap*
christian . . . *adj, usu cap*
french . . . *adj, usu cap*
french•ify . . . *vb . . . often cap*
die•sel . . . *adj, sometimes cap*

5.2 When an entry has more than one letter in question, the label specifies the capitalization required by usage:

french anemone . . . *usu cap F*
black-eyed su•san . . . *usu cap S*
brown betty . . . *usu cap 2d B*
french canadian . . . *usu cap F&C*
neo-thomist . . . *often cap N & usu cap T*

6. ATTRIBUTIVE NOUNS

6.1 The label *often attrib* in italics added to the label *n* at a main entry indicates that the noun is often used as an adjective equivalent in attributive position before a substantive (as in *air passage*, *cabbage soup*):

air . . . *n* -S *often attrib*
cab•bage . . . *n* -S *often attrib*
din•ner . . . *n* -S *often attrib*
fox . . . *n, pl* **foxes** *or* **fox** *often attrib*
pep•per . . . *n* -S *often attrib*
shoul•der . . . *n* -S *often attrib*
va•ca•tion . . . *n* -S *often attrib*

6.2 While any noun is likely to get used attributively sometimes, the label *often attrib* is confined to those having such widespread general frequent attributive use that they could be entered and defined as adjectives or adjectival elements. The label is not used when there is an entered adjective homograph (as *milk*, *adj* and *dog*, *adj*). Also, it is not used at open compounds that may be often used attributively when hyphened (as *X ray* in *X-ray microscope*).

7. THE ETYMOLOGY

7.1 The matter in boldface square brackets preceding the definition is the etymology. Meanings given in roman type within these brackets are not definitions of the main entry, but meanings of the Middle English, Old English, or non-English words within the brackets. Such etymological meanings may or may not be the same as one or more of the meanings of the main entry. For the meanings of abbreviations in an etymology, see the pages headed "Abbreviations Used in This Dictionary".

7.2 It is the purpose of the etymology to trace a main vocabulary entry as far back as possible in English, as to Old English; to tell from what language and what form it came into English; and to trace the pre-English source as far back as possible. These etyma (or a part of them) are printed in italic type.

7.3 The etymology usually gives the Middle English and Old English forms of native words in the manner illustrated by the following examples:

earth . . . *n* . . . [ME *erthe*, fr. OE *eorthe* . . .]
day . . . *n* . . . [ME, fr. OE *dæg* . . .]

7.3.1 When a word is traced back to Middle English but not to Old English, it is found in Middle English but not in the texts that have survived from the Old English period, even though it cannot be shown to have been borrowed from any other language, and even though it may have cognates in the other Germanic languages:

girl . . . *n* . . . [ME *girle, gerle, gurle* young person of either sex]
poke . . . *vb* . . . [ME *poken;* akin to MD *poken* to poke, stick . . .]

7.3.2 When a word is traced back directly to Old English with no intervening mention of Middle English, it has not survived continuously from Old English times to the present, but died out after the Old English period and has been revived in modern times for its historical or antiquarian interest:

ge•mot *or* **ge•mote** . . . *n* . . . [OE *gemōt* . . .]

7.4 For words borrowed into English from other languages, the etymology gives the language from which the word is borrowed and the form or a transliteration of the word in that language if the form differs from that in English:

etch . . . *vb* . . . [D *etsen* . . .]
flam•boy•ant . . . *adj* [F . . .]
judge . . . *vb* . . . [ME *juggen*, fr. OF *jugier* . . .]
ab•bot . . . *n* . . . [ME *abbod, abbed*, fr. OE *abbod, abbad*, fr. LL *abbat-, abbas* . . .]

7.5.1 Sometimes no etymology is given for words (including open compounds) created in Modern English by the combination of existing constituents. This generally indicates that the identity of the constituents is expected to be evident to the user without guidance. Examples:

blackfish . . . *n* **1 :** any of several dark-colored fishes
black•ly *adv* **:** in a black manner

7.5.2 At other times the etymology states one or both of the constituents of such words, especially when it is felt that their identity is not necessarily self-evident:

ac•ti•va•ble . . . *adj* [*activate* + *-able*]
man•ga•nite . . . *n* . . . [*mangan-* + *-ite*]
black•guard . . . *n* [¹*black* + *guard*]
indian bison *n* . . . [²*indian* 1]

No hard-and-fast line, however, can be drawn between these two methods of treatment.

7.6 A considerable part of the technical vocabulary of the sciences and other specialized studies consists of words or word elements that are current in two or more languages with only such slight modifications as are necessary to adapt them to the structure of the individual language in each case. Many words and word elements of this kind have become sufficiently a part of the general vocabulary of English to require entry in a general dictionary of our language. On account of the vast extent of the relevant published material in many languages and in many scientific and other specialized fields, it is impracticable to ascertain the language of origin of every such term, yet it would not be accurate to formulate a statement about the origin of any such term in a way that could be interpreted as implying that it was coined in English. Accordingly, whenever a term that is entered in this dictionary belongs recognizably to this class of internationally current terms, and no positive evidence is at hand to show that it was coined in English, the etymology recognizes its international status and the possibility that it originated elsewhere than in English by use of the label ISV (for International Scientific Vocabulary). In some instances a statement as to probable language of origin is added after a semicolon. Examples:

end•oral . . . *adj* [ISV *end-* + *oral*]
en•do•scope . . . *n* [ISV *end-* + *-scope;* prob. orig. formed in F]
hap•loid . . . *adj* [ISV, fr. Gk *haploeidēs* single . . .] **1 :** having the gametic number of chromosomes or half the number characteristic of the somatic cells
-ene . . . *n suffix* . . . [ISV, fr. Gk *-ēnē* (fem. patronymic suffix)] **:** unsaturated carbon compound

7.6.1 Occasionally the label ISV is used, not to indicate that the entire entry form belongs to the International Scientific Vocabulary, but to identify as internationally current (though non-Latin) one of the constituents of a compound word formed in New Latin:

cho•les•ter•ol•emia *also* **cho•les•ter•ol•ae•mia** . . . *n* . . . [NL, fr. ISV *cholesterol* + NL *-emia, -aemia*]

7.7.1 An etymology beginning with the name of a language (including ME or OE) and not giving the foreign (or Middle English or Old English) form indicates that the foreign (or Middle English or Old English) form is the same as that in present-day English:

for . . . *prep* [ME, fr. OE . . .]
fos•sa . . . *n* . . . [L, cavity, ditch, trench . . .]

7.7.2 An etymology beginning with the name of a language (including ME or OE) and not giving the foreign (or Middle English or Old English) meaning indicates that the foreign (or Middle English or Old English) meaning is the same as that expressed in the first or only definition in the entry:

bea•con . . . *n* . . . [ME *beken*, fr. OE *bēacen* sign . . .] **1 :** a signal fire
de•note . . . *vt* . . . [MF *denoter*, fr. L *denotare* . . .] **1 :** to serve as indication of

7.8.1 Small superscript figures preceding forms mentioned in an etymology identify them in each case as a particular member of a set of numbered homographic entries in this dictionary. Such figures are normally used with unlabeled (Modern English) forms; but sometimes, for convenience, they are used with forms labeled OE, ME, NL, or ISV, provided these are completely identical in spelling with the corresponding Modern English form. Examples:

chucker . . . *n* . . . [⁶*chuck* + *-er*]
in•definable . . . *adj* [¹*in-* + *definable*]
in•dec•or•ous . . . *adj* [L *indecorus*, fr. *in-* ¹in- + *decorus* decorous]
bi•fluoride . . . *n* . . . [ISV ¹*bi-* + *fluoride*]
sad•ness *n* . . . [ME *sadnesse* seriousness, firmness, fr. ¹*sad* + *-nesse* -ness]

7.8.2 Small superscript figures following words or syllables in an etymology refer in each case to the tone of the word or syllable which they follow, and accordingly are used only with forms cited from tone languages:

sam•pan *also* **san•pan** . . . *n* . . . [Chin(Pek) *san¹ pan³*, fr. *san¹* three + *pan³* board, plank]
voo•doo *also* **vou•dou** . . . *n* . . . [. . . Ewe *vo¹du³* tutelary deity, demon]

7.9 When the source of a word appearing as a main entry is unknown, the formula "origin unknown" is usually used. Only rarely and in exceptional circumstances does absence of an etymology mean that it has not been possible to furnish any informative etymology; this is the case, however, with some ethnic names. More usually it means that no etymology is felt to be necessary; this is the case, for instance, with a very large proportion of the entries identified as variants or taxonomic synonyms and with Modern English coinages of the kind mentioned in paragraph 7.5.1. In one situation, absence of an etymology has a distinct and positive significance, namely in the second and later items in a set of homographic entries; here it indicates derivation by functional shift, in Modern English, from the last preceding homograph that has an etymology.

7.10.1 For native words the etymology gives cognates where possible from other Germanic or Indo-European languages, especially Old High German, Old Norse, Gothic, Latin, Greek, and Sanskrit. Similarly, for a very large proportion of the words borrowed into English from other Indo-European languages, not only Latin and Greek but also Sanskrit, the Germanic languages, the Romance languages, the Slavic languages, and the rest, the etymology gives a like indication of the Indo-European cognates. Examples:

bench . . . *n* . . . [ME, fr. OE *benc;* akin to OHG *bank* bench, ON *bekkr*]
bear . . . *vb* . . . [ME *beren*, fr. OE *beran;* akin to OHG *beran* to carry, ON *bera*, Goth *bairan*, L *ferre*, Gk *pherein*, Skt *bharati* he carries]
dic•tion . . . *n* . . . [LL & L; LL *diction-, dictio* word, fr. L, delivery in public speaking, fr. *dictus* (past part. of *dicere* to say) + *-ion-, -io* -ion; akin to OE *tēon* to accuse, OHG *zihan* to accuse, ON *tjā* to show, Goth *gateihan* to tell, L *dicare* to dedicate, Gk *deiknynai* to show, *dikē* right, judgment, Skt *diśati* he shows]
meld . . . *vb* . . . [G *melden* to announce, report, fr. OHG *meldōn;* akin to OE *meldian* to announce, reveal, inform on, *meld* proclamation . . . OHG *melda* betrayal, OSlav *moliti* to ask for, request, pray . . .]

7.10.2 Considerations of space of course make it inadvisable to give a full display of cognates at every possible entry; what is more usually done is to direct the user by a "more at" cross-reference to another entry where such a full display of cognates is given:

edict . . . *n* . . . [L *edictum*, fr. neut. of *edictus*, past part. of *edicere* to declare, decree, fr. *e-* + *dicere* to say — more at DICTION]

7.11 Besides the use of "akin to" to denote ordinary cognate relationship, as in several examples in the preceding paragraph, there is in some etymologies a somewhat special use of "akin to" as part of a longer formula "of — origin; akin to —". This longer formula indicates that a word was borrowed from some language belonging to a group of languages, the name of the group being inserted in the blank just before *origin;* that for some reason it is not possible to say with confidence that the word in question is a borrowing of a particular attested word in a particular language of the source group; and that the word or words cited in the blank after "akin to" are a cognate or cognates of the word in question as attested within the source group. Examples:

guard . . . *vb* . . . [MF *garder*, fr. OF *garder, guarder* to ward, guard, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *wartēn* to watch, take care — more at WARD]
cant . . . *n* . . . [ME, prob. fr. MD or ONF; MD, edge, fr. ONF, fr. L *cantus, canthus* iron ring round a carriage wheel, perh. of Celt origin; akin to W *cant* rim, Bret *cant* circle; akin to Gk *kanthos* corner of the eye, Russ *kut* corner]

This last example shows the two uses of "akin to" in explicit contrast with each other. The words cited immediately after "of Celt origin; akin to" are Celtic cognates of the presumed Celtic source word from which the Latin word was borrowed; the words cited after the second "akin to" are further cognates from other Indo-European languages.

8. STATUS LABELS

8.0 A status label in italics sometimes appears before a definition. It provides a degree of usage orientation by identifying the character of the context in which a word ordinarily occurs. Status labels are of three kinds: temporal, stylistic, and regional.

8.1.1 The temporal label *obs* for "obsolete" means that no evidence of standard use since 1755 has been found or is likely to be found:

abastardize *vt* . . . *obs*
abhorrency *n* . . . *obs*
absume *vt* . . . *obs*

obs is a comment on the word being defined, not on the thing defined by the word. When obsolete-

ness of the thing is in question, it is implied in the definition (as by *onetime, formerly,* or historical reference):

longbow . . . *n* . . . : the great bow of medieval England
man·tel·et . . . *n* . . . : a movable shelter formerly used by besiegers as a protection when attacking

8.1.2 The temporal label *archaic* means standard after 1755 but surviving in the present only sporadically or in special contexts:

be·like . . . *adv* . . . *archaic*
oak·en . . . *adj* . . . *archaic*
spir·i·tu·ous . . . *adj* . . . *archaic*

archaic is a comment on the word being defined, not on the thing the word represents.

8.2.1 The stylistic label *slang* is affixed to terms especially appropriate in contexts of extreme informality, having usually a currency not limited to a particular region or area of interest, and composed typically of clipped or shortened forms or extravagant, forced, or facetious figures of speech:

clary . . . *n* . . . *slang*
cornball . . . *n* . . . *slang*
happy dust *n* . . . *slang*
lu·lu . . . *n* . . . *slang*

There is no completely satisfactory objective test for slang, especially in application to a word out of context. No word is invariably slang, and many standard words can be given slang connotations or used so inappropriately as to become slang.

8.2.2 The stylistic label *substand* for "substandard" indicates status conforming to a pattern of linguistic usage that exists throughout the American language community but differs in choice of word or form from that of the prestige group in that community:

drown . . . *vb* . . . *substand* **drownd·ed**
his·self . . . *also* **his·sel** . . . *pron* . . . *substand*

This label is not regional.

8.2.3 The stylistic label *nonstand* for "nonstandard" is used for a very small number of words that can hardly stand without some status label but are too widely current in reputable context to be labeled *substand:*

ir·regardless . . . *adj* . . . *nonstand*

8.3.1 The regional label *dial* for "dialect" when unqualified indicates a regional pattern too complex for summary labeling usually because it includes several regional varieties of American English or of American and British English:

husky . . . *n* . . . *dial*

8.3.2 The combined label *dial Brit* and the combined label *dial Eng* indicate substandard currency in a provincial dialect of the British Commonwealth or England:

clart . . . *dial Brit*
slape . . . *adj* . . . *dial Eng*

8.3.3 A standard word requiring a specified regional restriction in the U.S. will have one of the seven labels *North, NewEng, Midland, South, West, Southwest,* and *Northwest.* These correspond loosely to the areas in Hans Kurath's *Word Geography of the Eastern United States* (1949). Examples:

dreadful . . . *adv, chiefly North*
jolt-wagon . . . *n, Midland*
can·ni·kin . . . *n* . . . *NewEng*
mountain pheasant *n, South*
cay·use . . . *n* . . . *West*
jor·na·da . . . *n* . . . *Southwest*
muck·a·muck . . . *vb* . . . *Northwest*

No collective label (as *U.S.*) is used to indicate currency in all regions of the U.S.

8.3.4 A regional label that names a country indicates standard currency in the named part of the whole English language area. Examples:

derry . . . *n* . . . *Austral*
cau·been . . . *n* . . . *Irish*
abeigh . . . *adv* . . . *Scot*
cabbage tree *n* . . . *NewZeal*
ca·nuck . . . *n* . . . *chiefly Canad*
pet·rol . . . *n* . . . *Brit*

9. SUBJECT LABELS

9.1 A prefixed subject label in italics names an activity or branch of knowledge in relation to which a word usually has a special meaning not identical with any other meaning it may have apart from the labeled subject. An abbreviated subject label can be found in the list of "Abbreviations Used in This Dictionary". Examples:

con·junct . . . *adj* . . . **5** *music*
break . . . *vt* . . . **4** . . . **c** *cricket*
con·choi·dal . . . *adj* . . . **2** *mineralogy*
con·sec·u·tive . . . *adj* . . . **3** . . . **b** *Semitic grammar*

10. SUBJECT GUIDE PHRASES

10.1 More common than the subject label in this dictionary is the subject guide phrase. This is a brief italicized phrase that points to something with which the word is associated:

con·chyl·i·at·ed . . . *adj* . . . *of a dye*
con·cor·dant . . . *adj* . . . **3** *of twins*
fire . . . *vi* . . . **1** . . . **d** (1) *of flax*
break *vi* . . . **6** . . . **d** (1) *of a fish or whale*

11. THE SYMBOLIC COLON

11.1 This dictionary uses a boldface character recognizably distinct from the usual roman colon as a linking symbol between the main entry and a definition. It stands for an unexpressed simple predicate that may be read "is being here defined as (or by)". It indicates that the supporting orientation immediately after the main entry is over and thus facilitates a visual jumping from word to definition:

black·ly *adv* : in a black manner
blackfish \'=ˌ=\ *n* **1** : any of several dark-colored fishes
bis·cay·ner \'bi(ˌ)skānər\ *also* **bis·cay·neer** \ˌ=='ni(ə)r\ *n* -S *usu cap* [obs. *Biskaine, Biscayne* Biscayan (fr. *Biscay,* province of Spain) + *-er* or *-eer*] : a seaman or ship from Biscay

11.2 Words that have two or more definitions have two or more symbolic colons. The signal for another definition is another symbolic colon:

daunt·less . . . : marked by courageous resolution : incapable of being daunted, intimidated, or subdued
avail·a·ble . . . **3** : such as may be availed of : capable of use for the accomplishment of a purpose : immediately utilizable

11.3 If there is no symbolic colon, there is no definition. For what sometimes takes the place of a definition see 15.2, 16.3, 19.1, 20.1.

12. SENSE DIVISION

12.1 Boldface arabic numerals separate the senses of a word that has more than a single sense:

x . . . **1** : . . . **2** : . . . **3** :
sev·en·teenth . . . *adj* . . **1** : being number 17 in a countable series . . . **2** : being one of 17 equal parts into which something is divisible

12.2 Boldface lowercase letters separate coordinate subsenses of a numbered sense or sometimes of an unnumbered sense:

x . . . **1** : . . . **2 a** : . . . **b** : . . . **c** : . . . **3** :
howl . . . *n* . . . **1** : a loud protracted mournful rising and falling cry . . . **2 a** : a prolonged cry of distress . . . **b** : a yell or outcry of disappointment, rage, or protest

x . . . **1** : . . . **2** : . . . : as **a** : . . . **b** : . . . **c** :
bridge·man . . . *n* . . . **1** : one who works on a bridge: as **a** : one who tends the landing bridge where a ferryboat docks . . . **b** : one who operates the machinery for opening and closing drawbridges . . . **c** : a member of a construction crew that builds bridges . . . **2** : one who works on the loading platform of an icehouse

x . . . : . . . : as **a** : . . . **b** : . . . **c** :
huge . . . *adj* . . . : very large or extensive: as **a** : of great size or area . . . **b** : of sizable scale or degree . . . **c** : of limitless scope or character

x . . . **1** : . . . **2** : . . . : **a** : . . . **b** : . . . **c** :
gag . . . *vb* . . . *vt* **1** : to apply a gag to: **a** : to stop the mouth of . . . **b** : to pry or hold open . . . **c** : to silence by the force of authority . . . **2** : to cause to heave

12.2.1 The lightface colon (as in the preceding formulas) indicates that the definition immediately preceding it binds together or subsumes the coordinate subsenses that follow it:

main stem *n* : a main trunk or channel: as **a** : the main course of a river or stream . . . **b** : the main line of a railroad **c** : the main street of a city or town

12.2.2 The word *as* may or may not follow this lightface colon. Its presence indicates that the subsenses following are typical or significant examples which are not exhaustive. Its absence indicates that the subsenses following are exhaustive with respect to evidence for dictionary inclusion.

12.3 Lightface numbers in parentheses indicate a further division of subsenses:

x . . . **1 a** : . . . **b** (1) : . . . (2) : . . . **c** : . . . **2** :
lead . . . *vi* . . . **2 a** : to be first or foremost in some respects . . . **b** (1) : to begin or open a passage or course of action . . . (2) : to play the first card of a trick, round, or game (3) : to direct the first of a series of blows at an opponent in boxing

12.4 The system of separating by numbers and letters reflects something of the semantic relationship between various senses of a word. It is only a lexical convenience. It does not evaluate senses or establish an enduring hierarchy of importance among them. The best sense is the one that most aptly fits the context of an actual genuine utterance.

12.5 The order of senses is historical: the one known to have been first used in English is entered first. This ordering does not imply that each sense has developed from the immediately preceding sense. Sense 1 may give rise to sense 2 and sense 2 to sense 3. As often as not, however, each of several senses derived in independent lines from sense 1 has served as the source of a number of other meanings. Sometimes an arbitrary arrangement or rearrangement is the only reasonable and expedient solution to the problems of ordering senses.

12.6.1 An italic functional label or other information given between a main entry and the etymology of a multisense word applies to all senses and subsenses unless a limiting label (as *pl*) or symbol (as -s) is inserted immediately after a divisional number or letter and before the symbolic colon or unless in any way clearly inapplicable. Examples of limiting labels:

can·tha·ris . . . *n* . . . **1** *pl* **can·thar·i·des** . . . **2** **cantharides** *pl but sing or pl in constr* . . . **3** *cap*
frit·il·lar·ia . . . *n* . . . **1** *cap* : a genus of bulbous herbs . . . **2** -s : any plant, bulb, or flower of the genus *Fritillaria*
alexandrian . . . *adj* . . . **1 a** *usu cap* : of or relating to Alexander the Great **b** *often cap* : characterized by the ideas prevalent after Alexander the Great
front . . . *adj* . . . **2** *comparative sometimes* **fronter** : articulated at or toward the front of the oral passage

12.6.2 The etymology also applies to all senses and subsenses unless another etymology in boldface brackets is given after a sense number or letter:

can·on . . . *n* . . . [ME *canoun* . . .] . . . **6** [LGk *kanōn,* fr. Gk] : a contrapuntal musical composition

12.6.3 An italic status label, subject label, or guide phrase does not apply to all the senses of a multisense word. When divisional numbers are present, such a label is inserted after the number:

daisy cutter *n* **1** *slang* : . . . **2** *slang* : . . . **3** *slang* :
de·ject . . . *vt* . . . **2 a** (1) *obs* : to lower esp. in rank or condition : ABASE, HUMBLE (2) *archaic* : to reduce esp. in force, degree, or quality : WEAKEN, LESSEN **b** : to make gloomy
de·fine . . . *vb* . . . **6 a** *math* : . . . **b** :
fish . . . *vb* . . . *vi* . . . **4** *of a Salvationist* : to speak with individuals

It then applies to lettered and parenthetically numbered subsenses that follow. It does not apply to succeeding boldface-numbered senses:

glance . . . *vt* . . . **2** *obs* **a** : to allude to **b** : to barely touch : GRAZE **3** :

Senses 2a and 2b are both obsolete but not sense 3. If it falls between a boldface letter and the symbolic colon or between a lightface number in parentheses and the symbolic colon, it applies only to the immediately following sense.

13. VERBAL ILLUSTRATIONS

13.1 The matter enclosed in a pair of angle brackets illustrates an appropriate use of the word in context. The word being illustrated is replaced by a swung dash which stands for the same form of the word as the main entry or by a swung dash plus an italicized suffix which can be added without any change of letters to the form of the main entry. Otherwise the word is written in full and italicized:

av·id . . . *adj* . . . **2** . . . ⟨an ~ reader⟩ ⟨an ~ gardener⟩
firm . . . *adj* . . . **1** . . . **b** (1) . . . ⟨walked with a ~ tread⟩ ⟨a ~ handshake⟩
fix . . . *vb* . . . *vt* . . . **4** . . . **c** . . . (2) . . . ⟨the jury had been ~*ed*⟩
fritter . . . *vb* . . . **1** . . . ⟨foolishly ~*ing* away time and energy⟩
shake . . . *vb* . . . **3 a** : . . . ⟨were *shaking* in their shoes⟩

13.2.1 A person's name or an italicized title included in the angle brackets acknowledges the authorship or source of a quoted verbal illustration:

just . . . *adv* . . . **4 a** . . . ⟨I'm ~ your interpreter —Ernest Hemingway⟩
lim·it . . . *n* . . . **1 a** . . . ⟨at the exact northern ~ of this valley —*Amer. Guide Series: Minn.*⟩
shake . . . *vb* . . . **3 a** . . . ⟨his voice *shook* and became shrill —Kenneth Roberts⟩

13.2.2 Suspension periods indicate an omission in quoted matter. Sometimes spelling, punctuation, or capitalization has been normalized without notation usually because the brief quotation is so far removed from its original context that such matters are no longer significant and may be actually misleading.

14. THE TAXONOMIC ENTRY

14.1 A main entry that defines the name of a kind of plant or animal (as rose) or a technical category of plants or animals (as Rosaceae) is a taxonomic entry. Such entries employ in part a formal codified New Latin terminology developed and used by biologists in accord with international codes of botanical and of zoological nomenclature to identify and to indicate the relations of plants and animals. In this terminology each kind of organism has one and only one correct name that for a species (binomial or species name) consists of a singular capitalized genus name combined with an uncapitalized specific epithet or trivial name which is an appositive or genitive noun or an adjective agreeing in case, number, and gender with the genus name (as in *Rosa setigera*). For a variety or subspecies (trinomial or variety name or subspecies name) the name adds a similar varietal or subspecific epithet (as in *Rosa setigera tomentosa*). Such binomials and trinomials are in this dictionary routinely italicized and enclosed in parentheses and ordinarily immediately follow the primary orienting noun:

ca·ran·dá . . . *n* . . . **1** : a tropical palm (*Copernicia australis*)
bar·row's goldeneye . . . *n* . . . : a No. American goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*)
red-shafted flicker *n* : a flicker (*Colaptes caper collaris*)

By their use an absolute technical identification is made.

14.2 A binomial or trinomial so used is a technical device and does not have separate entry. The name of a genus used in such a combination normally does have an entry unless directly or indirectly oriented (as by specific mention of a higher category or through another vernacular or a technical adjective) to a higher taxonomic category (as a family, order, or class):

northern anthracnose *n* . . . caused by a fungus (*Kabatulla caulivora*) of the family Tuberculariaceae
man·go . . . *n* . . . **4** : a hummingbird of the genus *Anthracothorax*
rainbow runner *n* : a . . . carangid food and sport fish (*Elegatis bipinnulatus*) but
indian laurel . . . *n* . . . **1** : an Asiatic tree (*Persea indica*)

14.3 Occasionally two binomials appear in one parenthesis in a taxonomic entry:

redstart . . . *n* . . . **2** . . . birds of the genus *Phoenicurus* (as the black redstart, *P. ochruros* syn. *P. titys* of Europe)
blacknose dace . . . *n* **:** a common No. American dace (*Rhinichthys atronasus* or *Atratulus atronasus*)

The first form indicates that the binomial following *syn* (for "synonym") is technically invalid but so widely known or generally used as to justify mention. The second is used when there is professional lack of agreement about the correct name.

14.4 A genus name used more than once in an unnumbered entry or in a numbered sense of an entry is routinely abbreviated in uses after the first:

go·ran . . . *n* . . . **:** either of two Indian mangroves (*Ceriops roxburghiana* and *C. candolleana*)
nas·tur·tium . . . *n* . . . **2** -s **:** any plant of the genus *Tropaeolum* (as *T. majus* and *T. minus*)
ich·thy·oph·thir·i·us . . . *n* . . . *cap* **:** a genus of oval holotrichous ciliates comprising a single species (*I. multifiliis*)

14.5 Names of taxonomic categories higher than the genus are capitalized plural nouns often used with singular verbs, are not italicized or abbreviated in normal use, and in this dictionary are routinely oriented in rank when used in defining:

turtle . . . *n* . . . **1 :** a reptile of the order Testudinata
scar·a·bae·oid . . . **1 :** a beetle of Scarabaeidae or a closely related family
achari·ace·ae . . . a family of herbs and subshrubs (order Parietales)

Such names when used in other entries will be found entered at their own alphabetical place.

14.6 A taxonomic entry of the form **x** *syn of* **y** means that *x* is in all respects (as grammatical number, capitalization, meaning, and taxonomic rank) equivalent to *y* but that it is for some reason (as a flaw of spelling or form, a faulty application, or a lack of priority) technically inferior to and less valid than *y*.

14.7 An italic guide phrase (as *in some classifications*) used to introduce the text of a taxonomic entry is a warning device and implies that the taxon defined though not strictly a synonym in the taxonomic sense is not as generally acceptable as one lacking such a qualifier.

15. USAGE NOTES

15.1 A usage note is introduced by a lightface dash. Two or more successive usage notes are separated by a semicolon. A usage note provides information about the use of the word being defined and so always modifies the word that is the main entry. It may be in the form of a comment on idiom, syntax, semantic relationship, status, or various other matters:

fresh·en . . . *vt* . . . **4 :** . . . — usu. used with *up*
collar . . . *vb* . . . *vi* **:** . . . — used of a steel bar in a rolling mill
al·le·gro . . . *adv* (*or adj*) . . . **:** . . . — used as a direction in music
free·ma·son . . . *n* . . . **2 :** . . . — called also *Mason*
co·he·sion . . . *n* . . . **3 :** . . . — distinguished from *adhesion*

15.2 A usage note may stand in place of a definition and without the symbolic colon. Some function words have little or no semantic content, and most interjections express feelings but otherwise are untranslatable into substitutable meaning. Many other words (as some oaths and imprecations, calls to animals, specialized signals, song refrains, and honorific titles), though genuinely a part of the English language, have a usage note instead of a definition:

gee . . . *interj* . . . — often used as an introductory expletive for emphasis and sometimes to express surprise or enthusiasm
at . . . *prep* . . . **1** — used as a function word to indicate presence in, on, or near
ahoy . . . *interj* . . . — used in hailing ⟨ship ~⟩
hey . . . *interj* . . . — used to call attention or to incite, to express interrogation, surprise, or exultation, or with indefinite meaning in the burden of a song

16. CROSS-REFERENCES

16.0 Various word relationships requiring that matter at one place in a dictionary show special awareness of matter at another place are taken care of by a system of cross-references. A sequence of lightface small capitals used anywhere in a definition is identical letter-by-letter with a boldface main entry (or with one of its inflectional forms) at its own alphabetical place. This sequence is a cross-reference; its boldface equivalent elsewhere is what is cross-referenced to and is not itself a cross-reference.

16.1 A cross-reference following a lightface dash and beginning with either *see* or *compare* is a directional cross-reference. It explicitly directs one to look somewhere else for further information. It never stands for a definition but (with a few exceptions) is always appended to one. Such a cross-reference is separated from another cross-reference or from a usage note by a semicolon.

16.1.1 A cross-reference using the verb *see* means that the boldface entry word to which it is appended is mentioned in the same meaning and function at the entry cross-referenced to. The information at this entry which is cross-referenced to adds to the meaning of the boldface word to which the cross-reference is attached or supplements it in some significant way (as by adding to one definition of *house* the cross-reference "see BUNGALOW, COTTAGE, MANSION; APARTMENT BUILDING, BOARDINGHOUSE, DWELLING HOUSE, LODGING HOUSE, ROOMING HOUSE, TENEMENT HOUSE"):

horn . . . *n* . . . **1 a** (1) **:** one of the paired bony processes that arise from the upper part of the head of many ungulate mammals . . . — see ANTLER
ant·ler . . . *n* . . . **:** a horn of an animal of the deer family

16.1.2 A cross-reference using the verb *compare* means that the boldface entry word to which it is appended is not mentioned (except perhaps incidentally) at the entry cross-referenced to. The additional information at this entry which is cross-referenced to is related in some pertinent way (as by similarity, contrast, or complement):

apoc·o·pe . . . *n* . . . **:** the loss of one or more sounds or letters at the end of a word . . . — compare APHAERESIS, SYNCOPE
syn·co·pe . . . *n* . . . **2 a :** the loss of one or more sounds or letters in the interior of a word

16.2 A cross-reference following a symbolic colon is a synonymous cross-reference. It may stand alone as the only definitional matter for a boldface entry or for a sense or subsense of an entry. It may be one of a group of definitions joined in series by symbolic colons. In either case the cross-reference means that the definitions at the entry cross-referenced to are substitutable as definitions for the boldface entry or the sense or subsense at which the cross-reference appears:

con·cep·ti·ble . . . *adj* . . . **:** CONCEIVABLE
con·cen·tra·tion . . . *n* . . . **4 :** DENSITY 1
concentric cable *n* **:** COAXIAL CABLE
con·cen·tric . . . *adj* . . . **1** . . . **b :** having a common axis (as of two or more cones or moraines) **:** formed about the same axis **:** COAXIAL
in·vent . . . *vt* . . . **2 :** to think up or imagine **:** concoct mentally **:** FABRICATE

16.2.1 Two or more synonymous cross-references are sometimes introduced by a symbolic colon and joined to each other by a comma. This indicates that there are two or more sets of definitions at other entries which are substitutable in various contexts:

con·cept . . . *n* . . . **:** THOUGHT, IDEA, NOTION
con·cede . . . *vb* . . . **2 :** ADMIT, ACKNOWLEDGE

16.2.2 A synonymous cross-reference sometimes accounts for a usage note introduced by *called also* at the entry cross-referenced to:

ra·ad . . . *n* . . . **:** ELECTRIC CATFISH
electric catfish *n* . . . — called also *raad*
fairy bell *n* **1** . . . **:** FOXGLOVE 1
foxglove . . . *n* . . . **1** . . . — called also *fairy bell, fingerflower, fingerroot*

16.3.1 A cross-reference following an italic *var of* is a cognate cross-reference. It is explained and illustrated in 1.7.3 as applied to standard variants.

16.3.2 A limiting label before the *var of* in a cognate cross-reference indicates in what way an entry word is nonstandard:

air *Scot var of* EYRE
alarum clock *chiefly Brit var of* ALARM CLOCK
ast . . . *dial var of* ASK
colour . . . *chiefly Brit var of* COLOR
defuse *obs var of* DIFFUSE

16.3.3 A cross-reference following an italic *syn of* is also a cognate cross-reference. See 14.6.

16.4 A cross-reference following an italic label identifying an entry as an inflectional form of a singular noun, of an adjective or adverb, or of an infinitive verb is an inflectional cross-reference. These are illustrated in 4.6, 4.12, and 4.16.

16.5 A cross-reference following a functional label is a suffixal cross-reference. These are illustrated at 4.4, 4.10, and 4.14. Each of these suffixes is an entry at its own alphabetical place where the way in which it is suffixed is explained.

16.6 A cross-reference may or may not be identified by a superscript number before it or by a lightface sense number or letter after it. A synonymous cross-reference to a homograph is not identified by part of speech: nouns refer to nouns, adjectives to adjectives. Cross-references to verbs sometimes distinguish between *vt* and *vi*.

17. RUN-ON ENTRIES

17.1.1 A main entry may be continued after a lightface dash by a boldface derivative of itself. This is a run-on entry. Its boldface is always in alphabetical order with respect to the word it is run on to. It has a functional label but no definition:

en·vi·able . . . *adj* . . . — **en·vi·able·ness** . . . *n* -ES
epi·phenomenal . . . *adj* . . . — **epi·phenomenally** . . . *adv*
equi·distant . . . *adj* . . . — **equidistantly** *adv*

17.1.2 An additional run-on entry sometimes follows:

er·ro·neous . . . *adj* . . . — **er·ro·neous·ly** *adv* — **er·ro·neous·ness** *n* -ES

17.2 A main entry may be continued after a lightface dash by a boldface phrase containing the main entry word or an inflected form of it. This also is a run-on entry. It often is not in alphabetical order. It may or may not have a functional label but it has a definition:

ac·count . . . *n* . . . — **in account with** *prep* . . . — **on account of** *prep*
bad . . . *adj* . . . — **in a bad way** . . . — **too bad**
deep . . . *adj* . . . — **in deep water**
run . . . *vb* . . . — **run across** . . . — **run a temperature** . . . — **run foul of** . . . — **run riot** . . . — **run to seed** . . . — **run wild**
set . . . *vb* . . . — **set about** . . . — **set aside** . . . — **set forth** . . . — **set one's cap for** . . . — **set one's hand to**

17.3 A run-on entry is an independent entry with respect to function and status. Labels at the main entry do not apply unless they are repeated.

18. SYNONYMIES

18.1 This dictionary contains over a thousand paragraphs in which synonymous words are briefly discriminated and given verbal illustrations. Each paragraph follows the entry of one of the words of a group under consideration and is signaled by the boldface abbreviation **syn** indented. The paragraph is a synonymy. The first one appears at the word *abjure* and considers *abjure, renounce, forswear, recant,* and *retract.*

18.2 Words considered in a synonymy refer at their own alphabetical places to its location by running on the boldface letters **syn** and the word:

re·nounce . . . **syn** see ABJURE
for·swear . . . **syn** see ABJURE

19. ABBREVIATIONS

19.1 An entry having the label *abbr* is an abbreviation and what follows it is an expansion rather than a definition. No symbolic colon is used:

bbl *abbr* barrel
abp *abbr, often cap* archbishop

19.2 An abbreviation formed from the initial letters of two or more words appears in unspaced capital letters.

BCD *abbr* bad conduct discharge
GA *abbr* **1** general agent **2** general assembly

19.3 Some abbreviations function also as substantives and have a combined label:

TD *abbr or n* -s . . . touchdown

20. SYMBOLS

20.1 An entry having the label *symbol* has an expansion or interpretation rather than a definition. No symbolic colon is used:

Ga *symbol* gallium
y *symbol* **1** unknown quantity **2** an ordinate **3** *cap* admittance **4** *cap* yttrium

21. COMBINING FORMS

21.1 A main entry that begins or ends with a hyphen is a word element that forms part of an English compound. The identifying label, besides the hyphen, is *comb form* for "combining form", or if the element is used only as an affix, the label is *prefix* or *suffix*. A suffix or terminal combining form that always determines syntactic function is further identified by addition of a part-of-speech label (as *adj suffix* or *n comb form*):

nas- *or* **naso-** *also* **nasi-** *comb form*
pre- *prefix*
-able *also* **-ible** . . . *adj suffix*
-age . . . *n suffix* -s
cephal- *or* **cephalo-** *comb form* . . . **1 :** head ⟨*cephal*itis⟩ ⟨*cephalo*meter⟩ **2 :** cephalic and ⟨*cephalo*facial⟩

21.2 This dictionary enters combining forms for two reasons: chiefly to make easier the writing of etymologies of words in which they occur over and over again; and to recognize meaningful elements that are constantly being used to form new words not yet authenticated for dictionary inclusion. A compound consisting of a known word and a known combining form is not censurable merely by being absent from the dictionary.

22. THE VOCABULARY ENTRY

22.1 The following definition appears at its own alphabetical place in the dictionary:

vocabulary entry *n* **:** a word (as the noun *book*), hyphened or open compound (as the verb *book-match* or the noun *book review*), word element (as the affix *pro-*), abbreviation (as *agt*), verbalized symbol (as *Na*), or term (as *man in the street*) entered alphabetically in a dictionary for the purpose of definition or identification or expressly included as an inflectional form (as the noun *books* or the verbs *booked* and *saw*) or as a derived form (as the noun *godlessness* or the adverb *globally*) or related phrase (as *one for the book*) run on at its base word and usu. set in a type (as boldface or small capitals) readily distinguishable from that of the running text which defines, explains, or identifies the entry

As defined, this term applies to all the entries as they are printed alphabetically from *a* to *zyzzogeton*, with or without hyphens, all their boldface variants, all the run-on entries, and all inflectional forms whether written out in boldface or indicated by small-capital suffixes.

23. -ER, -OR, -IZE

23.1 -ER, -OR, or -IZE. A "*see -er in Explan Notes*" as at *center*, a "*see -or in Explan Notes*" as at *honor*, or a "*see -ize in Explan Notes*" as at *synchronize* refers to variant spellings discussed in sections 2.7, 2.12, and 2.10 in the article headed "Spelling".

24. FACTOTUMS

24.1 The letter-forms illustrated at the beginning of each letter of the alphabet are a capital surrounded by lowercase roman (upper left), lowercase italic (upper right), and small and large script or black letter (across the bottom).

DIVISIONS IN BOLDFACE ENTRY WORDS

1. The centered periods in boldface main entries indicate places at which a hyphen may be put as the last character in a line of print or writing when the rest of the word must be put at the beginning of the following line. We have made an effort to insert the periods only at places where hyphens would actually be used by publishing houses whose publications show a conscientious regard for end-of-the-line divisions. Such publishers probably never divide *oleo* between the *e* and the *o* (if there is room for a hyphen, there is room for the *o*). They avoid dividing between the *o* and the *l* except in extremely narrow measure (as when an illustration narrows a column). They avoid divisions like *prea·damic* and *cardi·ovascular*, in which a letter from one element of a compound containing an English word is placed with the other element. We show no division marks at all in the word *oleo*, none between the *a* and *d* of *adamic* or *preadamic*, and none between the *i* and *o* of *cardiovascular*. Divisions avoided by publishers are sometimes printed in dictionaries probably as a concession to those who believe that syllabic division is a guide to pronunciation. However, it is the pronunciation of a word that governs its orthographic division rather than the other way around. This summary of the division practices followed in this dictionary includes a few alternatives that may recommend themselves for use and discusses objections to some of the division practices that have long been followed by dictionaries and in turn by publishers.

2.1 A compound formed of two elements each of which is an independent English word may be divided between the two elements: *nose·bleed*, *up·end*. No divisions have been shown for these compounds in this dictionary under a belief that no writer or printer need consult a dictionary for such information.

2.2 Compounds formed of an English word and an element (prefix, suffix, or combining form) that is not an independent English word are difficult to reduce to rule. In general, the more freely attachable those elements are to English words, the more apt compounds containing them are to be divided between the two constituents if the consonant or consonant group at the point of junction is one that could be either word-final or word-initial in English with the phonetic value it has in the compound. Thus, compounds with syllable-increasing inflectional suffixes are divided before the suffix: *stat·ed*, *stat·ing*, *fil·ing*, *fill·ing*, *whit·er*, *whit·est*. Such divisions are too well known to be shown in this dictionary. Divisions are made before such suffixes as the noun-forming suffix *-er* and the adjective-forming suffix *-ish*: *stat·er*, *whit·ish*. Most words in *-or* with a consonant preceding are usually divided before the preceding consonant when the break must be made between the vowels of the last and next-to-the-last syllables (as in *mortga·gor*) although a variant spelling in *-er* is usually divided after the consonant (as in *mortgag·er*). A more realistic procedure would be to show alternative divisions for words which, like *tribal*, *affective*, *defendant*, and *zincoid*, exhibit variation, just as we show variant spellings and variant pronunciations. But even the minimal number of divisions that it has long been traditional to show constitutes a disfigurement of the entry word, which in reading matter has syllable indications only at the end of a line.

3. The unsatisfactoriness of the practice of allowing pronunciation to determine place of division when no morpheme boundary is involved is best illustrated by words of the type of *apparatus* and *cyclic*, which have pronunciation variants that call for inconsistent divisions. Thus, \'sīklik\ calls for *cy·clic*, but \'siklik\ calls for *cyc·lic*. To print the word as *cy·c·lic* is something so precedentless that it would arouse strong resistance among dictionary users. An alternative that is less disturbing, that has good precedent in other parts of the English-speaking world, and that promises to require a minimum of dictionary thumbing for the typesetters and proofreaders who are the ones most concerned with orthographic divisions, is the divorcing of such division from pronunciation as much as possible. All dictionaries and all careful dividers use such divisions as *offi·cial*, *posi·tion*, and *divi·sion*, in which a short vowel stands at the end of a line or syllable.

4. If divisions such as these are accepted with equanimity, it seems unlikely that a short vowel would be strongly resisted at the end of a syllable when the consonant between it and the following vowel is one other than *c*, *t*, or *s* with the phonetic values they have in the words cited. Books published recently in Great Britain contain such line-final short vowels which not only do not disturb the reader but are not even noticed by him in the course of reading at normal tempo. (British publishers seem not to attach much importance to consistency of division, and most British dictionaries do not show divisions in entry words.) Any publisher who would like to reduce the expense of division checking by typesetter and proofreader and of resetting could start with the following practice: When no morpheme boundary is involved, put a single consonant (except *x*, which is really two consonants: compare *toxin*, *tocsin*) with the vowel that follows it. Examples:

ap·pa·ra·tus	*Co·lo·ra·do*
cy·clic	*pa·na·te·la*
ci·ty	*di·gi·ta·lis*
mi·li·ta·ry	*Abi·ti·bi*

In *Abi·ti·bi*, there is no division between the *A* and the following *b* because leaving a single letter at the end of a line is usually avoided, now probably from custom but originally probably from the obvious fact that the reader can seldom, if ever, know how to read a single letter without knowing what letters follow it.

5. We have eliminated many of the division marks called for by traditional dictionary practice —such division marks as *o·le·o*, *sepi·a*, *min·icamera*, and *mon·osyllable*. With less success at consistency, we have avoided showing a division at points where variant pronunciations would indicate two divisions, as at *process* (noun) whose *o* is both \ä\ and \ō\. If a dictionary user pronounces \ō\ in *process*, then he may find the division *proc·ess* disturbing and may wish for a system under which he can choose the division *pro·cess*. Because of the need for a maximum of division points, we have usually not omitted division marks out of regard for variant pronunciations if it would deprive the divider of a division point at the end of two consecutive syllables. A variant preceded by the qualifier *sometimes*, the sign ÷, or some such label as *dial* has also usually not been regarded as justifying omission of a divider. Although unavoidable inconsistencies may be noticed in our divisions, no reader is apt to notice any at the righthand margin of a printed page set in strictest accord with our divisions. The showing of alternative divisions (as for *process*) or a discussion of division in an entry is impracticable. Division, from whatever necessity, presents a problem that has no positive solution.

6. Other classes of words in which we are unable to avoid the appearance of inconsistency are hyphened compounds (as *self-centered*) and compounds composed of an English word and an initial combining form (as *rhinencephalon*). Because the hyphen used at the end of a line is identical with the hyphen that occurs between the *f* and *c* of a word like *self-centered*, many find objectionable the breaking of such a word at the end of a line at any point other than the hyphen. The reason no doubt is that *self-centered* looks as much like (*self-cen*)(*tered*) as it does like (*self*)= (*centered*), and may give the reader a slight pause. An end-of-the-line division that coincides with the orthographic hyphen is to be preferred, even at the expense of some contrivance, if the measure is wide enough to permit it. In *Mason-Dixon line*, for example, where the word preceding and the word following the orthographic hyphen are both quite short, every effort should be made to avoid dividing between *a* and *s* and between *x* and *o;* and in *master-at-arms*, which has two orthographic hyphens to start with, to avoid dividing between the *s* and *t* of *master*. But if a line will contain all except the last syllable of a word like *self-determination*, few will object to setting off *-tion*. If there are on either side of the orthographic hyphen two word components both of which occur freely in English, the boundary between these components is the next-best place for the typographic hyphen. In *self-centeredness*, for example, breaking the word between the *d* and *n* is much better than breaking it between the *n* and *t*. In fact, the word is really (*self-centered*)(*ness*) rather than (*self*)(*centeredness*). Divisions such as that between the *n* and *t*, however, occur in publications whose typography and proofreading are overall of a very high order. Probably no such publication would divide immediately before a single letter preceding or immediately after a single letter following an orthographic hyphen— for example, before the first *i* or after the second *i* of *semi-ionic*. Such divisions would also be avoided if the word were solid instead of hyphened.

7. Dictionaries have usually put a division mark before the final consonant of the combining form in such compounds as *rhinencephalon*, *otacoustic*, in which the vowel before that final consonant is long and in which the second element is an independent English word that begins with a vowel and that retains its pronunciation unchanged in the compound. Dividing *rhinencephalon* between the *i* and the immediately following *n* conceals the make-up of the word, difficult at best for any except the specialist, and fails to provide the resourceful reader with a clue for intelligent guessing that would be provided by a division between the first *n* and the *e*. Since a clue to meaning is more valuable to the average reader than a clue to pronunciation, we have departed from precedent in the division of words of this class. A division such as *hydr·argillite*, however, would confuse by suggesting a mispronunciation for the combining form. So we have not divided such words as these at the morpheme boundary.

8. The following brief summarization replaces the considerably longer list of rules contained in preceding editions of this work, a list so detailed as to be difficult to remember and follow.

8.1 A single lowercase letter at the end of a word is never separated from the rest of the word. (In *India* the *i* and *a* are never separated. In *grade-A milk* the *A* is possibly sometimes set at the beginning of a line in narrow measure.)

8.2 Dividing after a single letter at the beginning of a word in which an orthographic hyphen is not the second character is usually avoided except in narrow measure. (In *again* and *Abel* the first letter is found separated from the rest of the word in the publications of typographically careful publishers chiefly in such narrow columns as those of pocket New Testaments. Such publications would probably show greater toleration toward setting the "*H-*" of *H-shaped* and the "*2-*" of *2-celled* at the end of a line.)

8.3 Solid compounds that consist of whole English words and that require dividing between the last syllable of one component and the first syllable of the next are divided at the boundary between the components. (*Newspaper* is divided between the *s* and the first *p*, *breakup* between the *k* and the *u*. In a compound like *newspaper*, the between-component division between *s* and *p* is somewhat to be preferred to the within-component division between *a* and the following *p* if the measure is wide enough so that the first alternative is possible.)

8.4 When a word composed of a whole English word, with pronunciation unaltered from its lexical pronunciation, and a prefix freely attachable to English words (as *anti-*, *non-*, *post-*, *pre-*, *pro-*, *semi-*) or a syllable-increasing suffix freely attachable to English words (as the present participle suffix *-ing* of *holding*, the comparative and superlative suffixes *-er* and *-est* of *moister* and *moistest*, the adjective suffix *-ish* of *girlish*, the adjective and adverb suffixes *-ly* of *lowly* and *coyly*, the agent-noun suffix *-er* of *toiler*) requires division between vowels belonging to different components, the division is made at the boundary between the components.

8.5 A non-syllable-increasing suffix, as the *-ed* of *turned*, is not separated from the rest of the word by most U. S. publishers but divisions such as *turn-ed* are numerous in some books printed in Great Britain. A word is accounted unaltered when the sounds remain the same even though the stress in the compound may, at least in certain contexts, differ, as in *Hollywoodian*.

8.6 A word is accounted whole even though a final silent *e* is dropped. Thus, *whaling* belongs with the words mentioned in paragraph 8.4 and is divided between the *l* and *i*. The British appear to adhere as strictly to the division of these words between components as do careful American publishers. However, in American publications that take less care with division, one also sees such divisions as *toi·ler*, *fligh·ty*, in which something of the base is taken over with the suffix. Although the between-components division here seems logical, it is not easy to answer effectively an objection that *toi·ler* is not different from *rela·tion*. (The latter has a phonetic reason that the former does not. But the phonetics of *toiler* would not be a bar to the division *toi·ler:* compare *toi·let*.) Several dictionaries now or formerly put the *g* or *q* of words ending in *-gue* or *-que* with the suffix when a word-initial syllable-increasing suffix follows, showing such divisions as *pla·guing*, *pi·quing*, *pla·guy*, *cli·quish*.

8.7 *-y* as in *frisky* and *flighty* is a freely attachable suffix but would not be separated from the rest of the word any more than the single letter *a* of *India* would. Divisions such as *fris·ky*, *fligh·ty*, however, may be found in publications not much concerned about the matter. Publishers who follow the dictionaries for the division of words like *mangey* find such words treated sometimes as *mang*(*e*)+*-ey* and sometimes as *mange*+*-y*, and divide or refrain from dividing accordingly. There is probably a feeling that *mang·ey* suggests a first syllable rhyming with *fang*, but divisions like *rang·ing* appear not to elicit this feeling to the same extent.

8.8 The comparative adjectives *longer*, *stronger*, and *younger* are usually divided after the *g* although division before the *g* would be in better agreement with the standard pronunciation, which has a sound \g\ not found in the positive forms and not ascribable to the suffix. *England* and by extension *English* are often divided after the *g* to keep the *land* intact but we have adopted the division before the *g*.

8.9 *-en* is not as freely attachable as other suffixes mentioned. (As a past-participle and noun=plural ending it seldom or never occurs outside the small handful of words in which it has long been established) but it is of Old English origin and deserves comment. When *-en* is coupled with an English word to form a verb or an adjective (as in *broaden*, *oaken*), each component retains its own consonants, except in words like *hasten*, *moisten*, in which the \t\ of the base disappears and for which division between the *s* and *t* is usual. In past participles the *en* usually stands by itself when the pronunciation of what precedes is the same as that of the infinitive or past-tense form (as *tak·en*, *shak·en*, *fall·en*, *shrunk·en*) or takes a preceding consonant when the pronunciation of what precedes is different from that of the infinitive (as *cho·sen*, *fro·zen*).

8.10 In compounds of affix and whole English word, division immediately before a single vowel at the end of a prefix or immediately after a single vowel at the beginning of a suffix is better avoided (as between the *m* and *i* of *semicircle* or between the *d* and *i* of *Hollywoodian*). The alternative requires little or no more effort.

8.11 Except when morpheme-final, as in *missing*, divide between two consecutive identical intervocalic consonants: *ab·bot*, *al·lot*, *mis·sion*, *expres·sion*, *swim·ming*, *ad·der* ("snake"), *add·er* ("one that adds"). (Spanish-derived *ll*, when not anglicized \l\, is often divided before the first *l*, as in *Trujillo*.)

8.12 Some suffixes of frequent occurrence in words borrowed from other languages have been naturalized to the extent that they are freely added to whole English words to form words in which the boundary between the components is an optimum dividing place: *Russian·ize*, *social·ize*, *Shakespear·ean*, *Roosevelt·ian* (but *Jeffersonian*, in which the first component differs from its uncompounded phonetic form in more than mere stress, is much less often treated as so divisible).

8.13 In general, it is best not to regard English proper names as English word plus suffix in dividing. The safest course is to employ such divisions as *Ba·ker*, *Mil·ler*, *Wel·ler*, even though many such words are in origin suffix-containing compounds. Such names are ordinarily not taken literally today. The pitfalls of looking for suffixes in proper names is shown by a word like *Wheeling*, which is often divided *Wheel·ing*. But the name of the West Virginia city is probably of Indian origin and the identity of the first part with English *wheel* and of the second part with the English present-participle suffix pure accident.

9. Perhaps the most inconsistently divided class of words in English consists of words whose first part is a whole English word (except that the spelling may exhibit loss of a final silent *e* and the pronunciation may exhibit shift of stress) and whose second part is a suffix of frequent occurrence in words borrowed directly from a foreign language and of more or less definite meaning, or is a short sequence of letters of infrequent occurrence and of vague or no meaning except to a language specialist. Examples of this class of words are *pompous*, *labyrinthine*, *legendary*, *missionary*, *lemonade*, *servant*, *service*, *licensee*, *patentee*, *lobar*, *lubricator*, *mastoiditis*, *millionaire*, *meditative*. (Words of the type *momentous*, *laborious* do not belong because, although the spelling of the first part is that of an English word, the sounds are not.) Some words at least of this class so often show two divisions between the vowels of the abutting syllables of the components (the division being made either at the boundary between components or before the last letter of the first component) that the dictionary practice of showing no more than one division between two consecutive syllable cores is misleading. The members of this group that are most often subject to variation are those in which the first component ends in two consonants or in a long vowel (as *pompous*, *lobar*, *legendary*). The members that are least subject to variation are those in which the first component ends in a single consonant with a completely unstressed vowel preceding (as *legionary*, *lemonade*). In the second group, the single consonant is usually kept with the first component. *-ator* is usually divided between *a* and *t* (but *-ater*, with the same meaning, is usually divided between *t* and *e*).

10. Between two consecutive syllables not composed of two meaningful elements, the following basic rules are usually followed by American publishers. The latter often prescribe that a specific dictionary should be taken as a guide in such matters as division and spelling.

10.1 A single consonant or a digraph goes with the preceding vowel if the vowel is stressed and short, with the following vowel if the preceding vowel is long or has weaker stress than the vowel next following: *civ·ic*, *vap·id*, *Loch·invar*, *Ach·eson*, *feath·er; sa·vor*, *Si·nai*, *Gra·ham*, *Ra·chel*, *ei·ther*, *se·cede*, *ma·chine*.

NOTE: \ā\, \á\, \aú\, \ē\, \ī\, \ō\, \ó\, \ói\, \ü\ are long vowels, \a\, \aa\, \e\, \i\, \ú\, \ˌə\ are short. An *a* pronounced \ä\ is in most cases treated as a long vowel (as in *fa·ther*, *sona·ta*) whereas an *o* pronounced \ä\ is treated as a short vowel (as in *both·er*). \ó\ is long when it does not immediately precede \r\ (as in *Ta·ney*, *Chautau·qua*). Before \r\, it is long when the spelling is other than *o* (as in *lau·rel*, *Law·rence*) or when an alternative pronunciation is \ō\ (as in *Dorian*); it is short when an alternative pronunciation is \ä\ (as in *Dor·ic*, *mor·al*). \i\ and \ú\ are long before \r\ when their spelling is *e* and *u*, respectively (as in *se·rial*, *fu·rious; ser·ial*, *fur·ious* would suggest \ˈserēəl\, \ˈfər·ēəs\).

10.2 *x* (which ordinarily is pronounced as two consonants \ks\ or \gz\) goes with the preceding vowel (as in *ex·act*). Those who believe that a division that fits any of two or more variant pronunciations is acceptable may wish to divide *Artaxerxes* between *a* and the *x* immediately following, \z\ being one variant for the first *x* there.

10.3 A *c* not pronounced \k\ or \s\, an *s* not pronounced \s\ or \z\, a *t* not pronounced \t\ or \d·\, and a *g* not pronounced \g\ go with a following *i* or *e* even when the preceding vowel is short (*pre·cious*, *offi·cial*, *vi·sion*, *posi·tion*, *pi·geon*, *reli·gion*, *prodi·gious*). The same dividers have not usually, however, employed a parallel placement of the letter *s* when it is preceded by a short vowel and pronounced \zh\ but followed by the letter *u* (*cas·ual*, *vis·ual*, *meas·ure*, *pleas·ure*, *treas·ure;* in these last three, there is a variant with the long vowel \ā\ preceding), nor for *t* when its pronunciation is \ch\ and its environment is the same (*fat·uous*, *rit·ual*); nor for *d* when its pronunciation is \j\ (voiced cognate of \ch\) and its environment is the same (as in *grad·ual*, *decid·uous*). The explanation probably is that the divisions for these words were based on pronunciations that are not now and probably have never been usual or even common in this country. Thus, Jones's *English Pronouncing Dictionary*, based on southern British speech, shows, in its first pronunciation for *visual*, *ritual*, and *gradual*, characters whose equivalents in our alphabet are \zy\, \ty\, and \dy\ respectively, instead of the \zh\, \ch\, and \j\ respectively that are almost universal in U. S. speech. In the dictionary we have changed over to the divisions *ca·sual*, *vi·sual*, *mea·sure*, *plea·sure*, *trea·sure* but have retained such divisions as *rit·ual* and *grad·ual* for the reason that even in the pronunciations that have resulted from assimilation, \t\ and \d\ respectively are the sounds that immediately follow the short vowel (\ch\=\t+sh\, \j\=\d+zh\).

10.4 A single *r* immediately preceded by the letter *e* pronounced \-ə\ and immediately followed by another vowel is usually put with the preceding *e* (as in *feder·ation*, *ciner·ary*, *toler·able*), although when any other vowel letter precedes under the same circumstances the *r* is usually put with the vowel letter that follows (as in *ado·ration*, *admi·rable*, *decla·ration*, *satu·rable*). Probably responsible is an apprehension that a division like *cine·rary* would suggest a pronunciation like \ˈsīnˌrerē\, although such divisions as *dele·terious* and *ade·quate*, employed by the same dividers, are open to the same objection.

10.5 Practice has varied in the division of words in which a single consonant (usually *l* or *n*) is preceded by a long vowel and followed by an *i* pronounced \y\ (as in *Australian*, *communion*). In the past, the divisions *Austral·ian* and *commun·ion* have probably been the usual ones in dictionaries but *Austra·lian* and *commu·nion* appear to us to be better, especially since in some words of this class the *i* is alternatively pronounced \ē\ rather than \y\.

11. The practices followed for the division of two or more medial consonants (*consonants* is to be understood to include consonantal digraphs, as the *ch* of *puncheon* and the *ch* and *th* of *ichthyology*) are given in the following summary. These rules are for consonant clusters within which or at either end of which there is no boundary between the elements of a compound one or both of which is an English word.

11.1 When two identical consonants occur medially, a division is made between the consonants (as in *col·lie*, *mil·lion*, *camel·lia*). When two identical consonants are followed by another consonant but the entire consonant sequence is pronounced as a single sound, the division is also between the identical consonants (as in *Bud·dha*, *Mat·thew*, *bac·chanalian*, *sap·phire*). (These sequences are trigraphs.) When two identical consonants are followed by another consonant that is separately pronounced, the division is after the second identical consonant (as in *Press·ley*, *Meiss·ner*, *Hauss·mann*, *Hoff·mann*, *Ripp·mann*, *Will·kie*), except that before *le* pronounced \əl\ or \ᵊl\ the division is between the identical consonants (as in *bab·ble*, *mid·dle*, *baf·fle*, *tus·sle*, *muz·zle*). When the identical consonants are preceded by another consonant, the division is between the identical consonants *Nils·son*, *Jans·sen*.

11.2 When two consonants that are not identical are preceded by a short stressed vowel, the division is usually between the consonants (as in *bar·ley*, *ad·junct*, *whis·per*, *pub·lic*, *met·ric*, *arith·metic*, *expul·sion*, *conten·tion*). *ck* and *dg* are usually divided after the second member (as in *knick·erbock·er*, *gadg·et*) but such treatment of *dg* (except in two-morpheme words like *edg·ing*) appears to us to be inconsistent with d-j in *adjunct*, and we have divided *gad·get*. When the first consonant is followed by *-le* pronounced \əl\ or \ᵊl\, the division is before the first consonant (as in *tr·ble*, *tri·ple*, *dou·ble*).

11.3 When two consonants that are not identical are preceded by a long stressed vowel or by a vowel that has less stress than the one immediately following, the division is before the first consonant if it is a stop (*p*, *t*, *c* or *k*, *b*, *d*, *g*) followed by *l* or *r* (except that *tl* and *dl*, which do not occur word-initially in English except in a few borrowed words, have the division before the first consonant only when this consonant is followed by *-le* or by an inflected form of *-le*, as in *ti·tle*, *enti·tling*, *noo·dle*, *At·lantic*, *ad·lumine*): *du·plicate*, *ca·pricious*, *ni·tric*, *trea·cle*, *mi·crometer*, *Bi·ble*, *cele·brate*, *hy·drant*, *hiero·glyphic*, *photo·graph*. The sequences *tl* and *dl* in *ti·tle* and *noo·dle* and *zl* in *muz·zle* are unusual in that they stand at the beginning of a syllable although they do not stand at the beginning of any except borrowed English words. The sequence *le* itself is unusual in that the phonetic items consisting of syllabic consonant and of vowel plus consonant are usually spelled with vowel letter first and consonant letter second. The sequence *ck* is usually treated as a digraph and kept together, with division after the *ck* (as in *knick·erbock·er*). *ck* is not, however, a digraph in the sense that the *ch* of *Wichita* is; it is much in the nature of a variant of *kk* (compare *chucker*, variant of *chukker*), and divisions like *grac·kle*, sometimes seen, can hardly be open to any serious objection. Dividing *lac·key* would parallel *lac·quer*. When two unidentical consonants other than those listed above occur, the division is usually between the consonants: *clois·ter*, *aus·picious*, *an·gel*, *Daim·ler*.

11.4 When three or more consonants occur between vowels, regardless of the nature of the preceding vowel, at least one consonant goes with it; if the placing of only one consonant with the preceding vowel would leave with the vowel that follows a consonant sequence that does not begin a genuine English word with the phonetic value it has intervocalically, two consonants are placed with the preceding vowel: *claus·trophobia*, *Neustrian*, *mis·creant*, *im·bricated*, *ex·tricate*, *sump·ter*, *ad·script*. In a word like *sumpter* the \mpt\ is a difficult phonetic cluster and the \p\ is often lost by way of simplification, so that *pt* in *sumpter* often has the same pronunciation as the *pt* of *ptomaine*, but such accidental loss of a medial consonant does not constitute a reason for such divisions as *sum·pter*.

11.5 In words borrowed from foreign languages consonant sequences retaining a pronunciation close to that of the foreign language are sometimes divided as in that language (as they commonly are in our dictionary), and sometimes divided as they would be in English words: *vignette*, *tortilla*, *zabaglione*.

SPELLING

0. The following sections describe the spelling of English derivatives and variants. They do not aim to account for it. Examples are typical, not exhaustive.

The words *vowel* and *consonant* here refer to letters, not to sounds. The letters *a, e, i, o* are vowels; *u, w, y* are sometimes vowels, sometimes consonants; the other letters are consonants.

u is a consonant when it immediately follows *q* (*quit, liquid, quoin, pique*); when it is pronounced \w\ or is silent immediately following *g* (*anguish, guide*); when it is pronounced \w\ immediately following *s* (*suave*). Otherwise it is a vowel (*accuse, blue, snafu, suet, gulf, ague*).

w is a vowel when it immediately follows a vowel letter in the same syllable (*awe, law, ewe, dew, grow, cow*), and has no \w\ corresponding to it in the pronunciation as represented in this dictionary. It is a consonant in other positions (*way, swan, award*), where it has a \w\ corresponding to it in the pronunciation (but *answer* has no \w\ in the pronunciation).

y is a consonant when it is followed in the same syllable by any vowel except silent *e* (*yap, yet, youth, ye*). Otherwise it is a vowel (*dye, eye, boy, alley, gray, by, deny, gyp, synonym, many*).

1. DERIVATIVES

1.0.1 English derivatives are chiefly derivatives in which one element is an English word and the other is another English word or an affix that is readily attachable to a variety of English words. A number of suffixes from foreign languages (esp. from Greek and Latin) occur with great frequency in English words, often preceded by letters that spell an English word to whose meaning the suffix merely makes an addition. But such suffix-bearing formations have in the main been produced not by adding a suffix to an English word but by adding a suffix to the foreign source of the English word — unions either made in the foreign language and borrowed into English or made in English on the analogy of other unions in the foreign language. Accordingly, often the spelling of such suffixal formations is not the sum of the spelling of the English derivative of the foreign root plus the spelling of the anglicized form of the suffix, and such formations cannot be explained without a consideration of non-English spellings, which is beyond the province of these rules (except that a certain amount of such detail has been presented in the treatment of *-able/-ible*). Examples of spellings that these rules do not attempt to explain are: *crystallize* (has the meaning of *crystal* plus the meaning that *-ize* frequently gives, but the two *l*'s are on the analogy of Greek *krystallos*); *excellent* (from Latin *excellens, -entis;* compare English *excel* with one *l*); *libidinous* (traces orthographically to Latin *libidinosus* rather than English *libido*); *tranquillize* (the two *l*'s trace to Latin *tranquillus;* the more frequent one-*l* variant is based directly on English *tranquil*); *metallic* (from Greek *metallikos* and *metallon* rather than English *metal*); *pontifical* (from the Latin word *pontific-* rather than English *pontiff*).

1.0.2 In derivatives of the preceding type alteration of stress and vowel values is of frequent occurrence, whereas in most of the derivatives next discussed the addition merely adds sounds to the base without disturbing the latter's stress and sounds. Rules for adding a suffix to an English word are of such involvement and extent that the consultant who desires help on some one specific detail only is advised to locate that detail by the boldface subdivision.

1.1 Words ending in -x are unchanged before any suffix:

coax → *coaxed, coaxing*
fix → *fixable, fixed, fixer, fixing*
jinx → *jinxed, jinxing*
Manx → *Manxman*
Marx → *Marxist*
six → *sixty*

1.2 Words ending in -c remain unchanged

1.2.1 before *a, o, u* or a consonant:

frolic → *frolicsome*
sac → *saclike*
talc → *talcose, talcous*
zinc → *zincate, zincoid, zincous*

1.2.2 before suffixal *e, i,* and *y* add *k* if the pronunciation of the *c* remains hard but add nothing if the pronunciation of the *c* becomes soft:

bivouac → *bivouacked, bivouacking*
critic → *criticism, criticize*
frolic → *frolicked, frolicking*
mimic → *mimicked, mimicking*
music → *musician*
physic → *physicist*
picnic → *picnicked, picnicking*
toxic → *toxicity*

1.3 Words ending in consonant plus -c usually remain unchanged before any suffix, but forms with an inserted *k* occur occasionally:

arc → *arced*/sometimes *arcked, arcing*/sometimes *arcking*
disc → *disced, discing*
zinc → *zinced*/*zincked, zinciferous, zincing*/*zincking, zincite, zincky*/*zincy*/but also *zinky*
talc → *talcky*

1.4 Some base words in this class have variants in which *-k* replaces *-c*. Such variants remain unchanged before any suffix.

1.4.1 Words ending in a single consonant except x or c immediately preceded by two or more vowels in the same syllable remain unchanged before any suffix:

air → *aired, airing, airy*
appeal → *appealed, appealing*
boil → *boiled, boiling*
brief → *briefed, briefer, briefly*
cloud → *clouded, cloudless*
cool → *cooled, cooler, coolest, cooling, coolly*
curtail → *curtailed, curtailing, curtailment*
head → *headed, headless, heady*
prowl → *prowled, prowler, prowling*
recoil → *recoiled, recoiling*
suit → *suitable, suitor*
tail → *tailed, tailless*
zeal → *zealot, zealous*
zoom → *zooming*

EXCEPTION:
wooly/but *woolly* is more frequent

1.4.2 Words ending in a single consonant immediately preceded by a single vowel bearing primary stress double the consonant before a suffixal vowel but not before a suffixal consonant:

abet → *abetted, abetting, abettor*
bag → *baggage*
begin → *beginner*
clan → *clannish*
drop → *droplet, dropped*
fit → *fitness, fitting*
glad → *gladden, gladly*
gyp → *gypped, gypping*
hot → *hotly, hotter*
lug → *luggage*
spot → *spotless, spotted*
trek → *trekker, trekking*

EXCEPTIONS:
chagrin → *chagrined, chagrining*
combat → *combated, combating*
(pronunciations having widespread currency in British speech, but little or none in U.S. are \shə'grēn\ or 'shagrin\ and \'kämbət\; see 1.4.3; the forms *combatted, combatting* are often found in U.S. writing; but *chagrinned, chagrinning*, though justifiable on the basis of logic and pronunciation, are less common variants).
control → *controled, controling*
(less frequent than the two *l* forms, but preferred by some to preserve the long vowel sound; for the same reason, derivatives of *extol* and *patrol* sometimes have single *l* spellings)
defer → *deference*
prefer → *preferable, preference*
refer → *reference*
transfer → *transference*
(when the stress is altered, the derivative has a single *r*, but some derivatives of *-er* verbs have an alternative single *r* spelling even when the stress remains the same: *transfer* → *transferable/transferrable*)
gas → *gaseous, gasify* but *gassed, gassing*

1.4.3 Words ending in a single consonant immediately preceded by a single vowel bearing secondary stress vary greatly in their derivatives:
some always double the consonant:

handicap → *handicapped, handicapping*
humbug → *humbugged, humbugging*
zigzag → *zigzagged, zigzagging*

some have single consonant only:

catalog → *cataloged, cataloging*
(but *catalogue* → *catalogued, cataloguing*, which present no problem)
chaperon → *chaperoned, chaperoning*
(the single *n* is probably due to the long vowel sound, as well as to the occasional appearance of the alternative form *chaperone*)
parallel → *paralleled, paralleling*
(the single *l* serves to avoid the awkward appearance of two pairs of *l*'s)
pyramid → *pyramided, pyramiding*

some have both forms:

bayonet → *bayoneted/bayonetted, bayoneting/bayonetting*
benefit → *benefited/benefitted, benefiting/benefitting*
carburet → *carbureted/carburetted, carbureting/carburetting, carburetor/carburettor*
combat → *combated/combatted, combating/combatting*
kidnap → *kidnapped/kidnaped, kidnapping/kidnaping*
nonplus → *nonplussed/nonplused, nonplussing/nonplusing*
program → *programmed/programed, programming/programing*
(the variant spellings may not have the same pronunciation; rather, the two-consonant spelling represents a pronunciation (or in *kidnap* a former pronunciation) with definite secondary stress on the last syllable of the base word, whereas the one-consonant spelling represents a pronunciation with no stress on the last syllable of the base word; in *carburetor* it may reflect the pronunciation \ˌrāt\ instead of \ˌret\

1.4.4 Words ending in a single consonant immediately preceded by one or more vowels without stress remain unchanged before any suffix:

bargain → *bargained, bargaining*
callous → *calloused, callously*
carom → *caromed, caroming*
credit → *credited, crediting, creditor*
gallop → *galloped, galloping*
gladden → *gladdened, gladdening*
solid → *solider, solidest, solidify, solidly*
waver → *wavered, wavering*

EXCEPTIONS:
(1) a large group of words doubles a final consonant immediately preceded by a single unstressed vowel before a suffixal vowel; in British use this is the regular practice; in U.S. use it is usually an accepted alternative to the one-consonant spelling. To this class belong words with unstressed final syllable ending in *-l* (except *parallel,* sometimes pronounced \-ləl\, esp. in Britain; compare 1.4.3) as well as some words ending in *-s* or *-t*. Derivatives of compounds of these words follow the same rules as derivatives of the simplex words. The following list includes the most important of these words:

apparel	*drivel*	*marshal*	*shovel*
barrel	*duel*	*marvel*	*shrivel*
bevel	*enamel*	*medal*	*signal*
bias	*equal*	*metal*	*snivel*
bowel	*focus*	*model*	*spiral*
cancel	*fuel*	*panel*	*stencil*
carol	*funnel*	*parcel*	*symbol*
cavil	*gambol*	*pedal*	*tassel*
channel	*gravel*	*pencil*	*tinsel*
chisel	*grovel*	*peril*	*total*
counsel	*gruel*	*pistol*	*towel*
cudgel	*jewel*	*pummel*	*trammel*
devil	*kennel*	*quarrel*	*travel*
dial	*label*	*ravel*	*trowel*
dishevel	*laurel*	*revel*	*tunnel*
dowel	*libel*	*rival*	*victual*

(2) two *l*'s are more common in adjectives like *gravelly, tinselly* than in derivatives with other suffixes; the double consonant prevents these words from being read as two-syllabled adverbs (*gravelly, adj; gravely, adv*)
(3) for derivatives of *worship* the one-*p* and two-*p* forms are about equally common:
worship → *worshiped/worshipped, worshiping/worshipping, worshiper/worshipper*

1.5 Words ending in a single consonant that is silent remain unchanged before any suffix:

chamois → *chamoised, chamoising*
crochet → *crocheted, crocheting*
hurrah → *hurrahed, hurrahing*
picot → *picoted, picoting*
pooh-pooh → *pooh-poohed, pooh-poohing*

EXCEPTION:
ricochet → *ricocheted/ricochetted, richocheting/ricochetting*
(this is not a true exception, for whereas the single-consonant spelling reflects a pronunciation in which the *t* is silent (\ˈrikəˌshā\), the double-consonant form reflects the pronunciation \ˈrikəˌshet\— compare 1.4.3.

1.6 Words ending in two or more consonants the last of which is not c remain unchanged before any suffix:

art → *artistic, artless*
attach → *attached, attachment*
buzz → *buzzed, buzzer, buzzing*
condemn → *condemnatory, condemned, condemning*
length → *lengthen, lengthy*
odd → *oddity, oddly*
sighed → *sighing*
stiff → *stiffen, stiffer, stiffly, stiffness*
thrall → *thralldom*
trick → *tricked, tricking, trickster*
thirst → *thirsty*
wrong → *wronged, wrongly*

EXCEPTIONS:
(1) words ending in *-ll* often drop one *l* before a suffixal consonant and in forming compounds (in Britain the one *l* spelling is by far the more common for such words; in the U.S. it is a widespread variant):

dull → *dulness* *skill* → *skilful*
fill → *fulfil, fulfilment* *will* → *wilful*
roll → *enrol* *thrall* → *enthral, thraldom*

(2) the second *l* of final *-ll* frequently disappears before suffixal *l;* it always disappears before *-ly* (*droll* → *drolly; dull* → *dully; full* → *fully*); before *-less* it may disappear, but hyphened forms, retaining all three *l*'s are more frequent (*hull-less, will-less*); with *-like,* the hyphened form, retaining all three *l*'s is usual (*bell-like, bull-like, scroll-like*)

1.7 Words ending in silent -e drop the vowel before a suffixal vowel but remain unchanged before a suffixal consonant:

bone → *boned, boning,* but *boneless*
complete → *completed, completing,* but *completeness*
curve → *curvature, curved, curving,* but *curvesome*
imagine → *imaginable, imagining,* but *imagines*
clique → *cliquish,* but *cliques*
bugle → *bugling, bugler*
gentle → *gentler, gentlest,* but *gentleness*

Although both are often called silent, the *e* at the end of words of the type *bone* and *giraffe* differs from the *e* at the end of words of the type *bugle* and *tickle* in this respect: the vowel letter that immediately precedes the final consonant or consonant group of *bone* and *giraffe* stands for a vowel sound that is the nucleus of the final or only syllable of the word whereas the vowel letter in the same position in *bugle* and *tickle* does not. The *-e* in *bugle* may be regarded as a vowel letter that is pronounced but that is out of position in the orthography of the word. Although such an *e* is usually dropped from the spelling before a suffixal vowel, the extra syllable that it represents in the form of the word before suffixation may remain present in the pronunciation, *bugling* for example being either \'byüg(ə)liŋ\ or \'byügəliŋ\ and *ticklish* being either \'tiklish\ or \'tikəlish\. Words ending in a single pronounced *-e* (other than those bearing an accent, covered in 1.9) are rare; the few existing examples drop the *-e* before a suffix beginning with an *e,* but remain unchanged before all other suffixes:

Dante → *Dantesque*
dele (vb) → *deles, deled, deleing*

EXCEPTIONS:
(1) proper names ending in single *-e* preceded by one or more consonants usually keep the *e* before the suffix *-an;* in the derivatives so formed the *e* is sounded, whether or not it is silent in the base:

Coleridge → *Coleridgean* usually preferred to */Coleridgian*
Europe → *European* *Chile* → *Chilean*
Nietzsche → *Nietzschean*
Shakespeare → *Shakespearean* usually preferred to */Shakespearian*

(2) *mile* → *mileage* much more frequent than */milage*
nurse → *nursling* the common form rather than */nurseling*

(3) before the suffix *-ly* words ending in consonantal *-le* usually drop the *-le:*

gentle → *gently* *simple* → *simply*
subtle → *subtly*/but also *subtlely*
supple → *supply*/but more frequently *supplely* probably to avoid confusion with the verb *supply*

(4) some words ending in *-re* retain the *-e* before a suffixal vowel:

acre → *acreage* *nacre* → *nacreous*

(5) words ending in *-ce* or *-ge* usually retain the *-e* before any suffixal letter except *e, i,* or *y,* thus preserving the softness of the *c* or *g:*

age → *ageless* (but *aging/ageing*)
change → *changeable, changeless* (but *changing*)
courage → *courageous, encouragement* (but *encouraged, encouraging*)
grace → *graceful* (but *disgraced, disgracing*)
peace → *peaceable*
replace → *replaceable* (but *replacing*)
range → *rangy*/but also *rangey*

A *d* preceding *g* may in a few cases act as a preserver of the soft sound and permit the dropping of the *-e:*

abridge → *abridgment*/but *abridgement* especially in Britain
acknowledge → *acknowledgment*/but *acknowledgement* especially in Britain
judge → *judgment*/but *judgement* especially in Britain
lodge → *lodgment*/but *lodgement* especially in Britain

(6) although final *-e* regularly drops before the suffix *-able,* some adjectives in *-able* have alternatives retaining the *-e:*

like → *likable/likeable*
live → *livable/liveable*
love → *lovable/loveable*
move → *movable/moveable*
size → *sizable/sizeable*

British usage is more inclined than U.S. usage to retain the form with *e;* recent or nonce formations, especially from polysyllabic base words, usually appear without the *e;* but formations based on verbs ending in *-le* or *-re* usually retain the *e:*

automobile → *automobilable*
isolate → *isolatable*

but:

handle → *handleable* *whistle* → *whistleable*
settle → *settleable* *wrinkle* → *wrinkleable*

(7) usage fluctuates considerably with regard to dropping or retaining final *-e* before derivatives formed with the suffix *-y;* many have both the *-ey* and the *-y* alternative:

cage → *cagey/cagy* *phone* → *phony/phoney*
home → *homey/homy* *poke* → *pokey/poky*
horse → *horsey/horsy* *stage* → *stagy/stagey*
mouse → *mousy/mousey*
stone → *stony/stoney*

and some words have only one form in common usage:

rose → *rosy* *slave* → *slavey*
shade → *shady*

(8) the silent *-e* remains in some present participles to distinguish them from the corresponding forms of other verbs:

dye → *dyeing* (in contrast to *dying*)
singe → *singeing* (in contrast to *singing*)
springe → *springeing* (in contrast to *springing*)
swinge → *swingeing* (in contrast to *swinging*)

1.8 Words ending in -e preceded by a vowel drop the final *-e* before suffixal *-a-* and *-e-*:

argue → *arguable, argued*
awe → *awed* *toe* → *toed*
blue → *blued, bluer, bluest*
free → *freed, freer, freest*
issue → *issuance, issued*
lie → *liar* *vie* → *vied*

EXCEPTIONS:
(1) words ending in *-ee* usually retain both *e*'s before *a* and always before suffixal *-i-*:

agree → *agreeable, agreeing*
flee → *fleeing*
foresee → *foreseeable*
free → *freeing*

-ie in an accented syllable becomes *-y* before suffixal *-i-*:

die → *dying* *lie* → *lying*
tie → *tying* *vie* → *vying*

-ie in an unaccented syllable remains unchanged before suffixal *-i-*:

stymie → *stymieing* *sortie* → *sortieing*

-oe remains unchanged before suffixal *-i-*:

canoe → *canoeing* *shoe* → *shoeing*
hoe → *hoeing* *toe* → *toeing*

-ue usually drops *-e* before suffixal *-i-*:

accrue → *accruing* *pursue* → *pursuing*
argue → *arguing* *true* → *truing, truism*
ensue → *ensuing*

-ye alternatively keeps or drops *-e* before suffixal *-i-*:

eye → *eyeing/eying* (compare *dyeing*)

retain *-e* when forming adjectives with the suffix *-y*:

glue → *gluey* *tissue* → *tissuey*

usually remain unchanged before a suffixal consonant:

agree → *agreement* *accrue* → *accruement*
free → *freedom* *blue* → *blueness*
woe → *woeful*/but also *woful*

but:

argue → *argument* *true* → *truly*
awe → *awful* (but *awesome*) *due* → *duly*

1.9 Verbs derived from the French and ending in -é usually form their past and past participle in *-éd,* less often in *-éed;* they form their present participle in *-éing:*

appliqué → *appliquéd, appliquéing*
visé → *viséd*/also *viséed*

1.10 Words ending in -y preceded by a consonant usually change the *-y* to *i* before any suffixal letter except *i* and the possessive sign *'s:*

beauty → *beautiful, beautify*
body → *bodily, embodiment*
cliquy → *cliquier, cliquiest*
contrary → *contrariwise*
copy → *copyist* *icy* → *iciest, icily*
defy → *defiant, defying*
deny → *denial, denying*
fancy → *fanciful, fancying*
happy → *happiness*
likely → *likelihood* *mercy* → *merciless*
merry → *merrier, merriest, merriment*
thirty → *thirtyish* *weary* → *wearisome*

but:

everybody → *everybody's*
Mary → *Mary's*

Verbs of this classification form the third person singular by changing the *-y* to *i* and adding *-es,* in analogy with the past and past participle in which *-y* regularly changes to *i* before *-ed.*

EXCEPTIONS:
(1) one-syllable words usually retain *-y* before *-ly* and *-ness:*

dry → *dryly, dryness* *sly* → *slyly, slyness*
shy → *shyly, shyness*
wry → *wryly, wryness*

(2) comparatives and superlatives of one-syllable adjectives alternatively retain *-y* or replace it with *i:*

shy → *shier/shyer, shiest/shyest*
dry → *drier, driest*/more common than *dryer, dryest*

(3) *fly* → *flier/flyer*

(4) *-y* remains unchanged
before *-like* and *-ship:*
lady → *ladylike*
secretary → *secretaryship*
in derivatives of *baby* and *lady:*
baby → *babyhood* *lady* → *ladykin*
in *busyness* (busy state) to distinguish it from *business* (enterprise)
in some rarely used forms:
hobby → *hobbyless* *Tory* → *Torydom*

(5) *-y* may be lost completely before suffixal *-i-,* especially when separated by one or more syllables from the primary stress of the base word:

accompany → *accompanist/accompanyist*
military → *militarism, militarist, militarize*
soliloquy → *soliloquize*
voluntary → *voluntarism*

1.11 Words ending in -y preceded by a vowel usually remain unchanged before any suffix:

alloy → *alloys* *attorney* → *attorneys*
convey → *conveyance, conveyor*
enjoy → *enjoying, enjoyment*
gray → *graying, grayish, grayness*
play → *played, playing, player, playful, playlet*

EXCEPTIONS:
(1) *day* → *daily* *say* → *saith*
lay → *laid* *slay* → *slain*
pay → *paid*

(2) *gay* → *gaiety/gayety, gaily/gayly*
stay → *stayed*

(3) comparatives and superlatives of adjectives ending in *-ey* replace these two letters with *i:*

gluey → *gluier, gluiest, gluily*
phoney → *phonier, phoniest, phonily*

A number of adjectives ending in *-ey* preceded by a consonant have alternative forms without *e* (*phoney/phony*). For these alternatives the spellings *-ier, -iest* are covered in 1.10.

(4) adjectives ending in *-wy* change the *-y* to *i* before any suffix:

dewy → *dewier, dewiest, dewily, dewiness*
showy → *showier, showiest, showily, showiness*

1.12 Words ending in a vowel except e or y, when adding a suffix beginning with a consonant, remain unchanged:

China → *Chinaman* *photo* → *photostat*
coo → *coos* *radio* → *radiogram*
law → *lawful* *taxi* → *taximan*

1.13.1 Verbs ending in a vowel except e or y, when adding a suffix beginning with a vowel, remain unchanged before their inflectional suffixes:

alibi → *alibied, alibiing*
boo → *booed* *coo* → *cooed, cooing*
radio → *radioed, radioing*
shanghai → *shanghaied, shanghaiing*
show → *showed, showing*
ski → *skied, skiing, skier*
snafu → *snafus, snafued*
taboo → *tabooed, tabooing*
tattoo → *tattooed, tattooing*
taxi → *taxis, taxiing*/but also *taxying*

EXCEPTIONS:
verbs ending in single *-o* usually insert *e* before adding *-s* for the third person singular:

echo → *echoes* *lasso* → *lassoes*

For the plural of nouns ending in a single *-o* (*potato*), see "Plurals".

1.13.2 Nouns ending in a vowel when adding one of the suffixes -esque, -ism, -ist usually remain unchanged especially if the base word is short and the final vowel is essential to its recognition:

Dada → *Dadaism* *Tao* → *Taoism*
Dali → *Daliesque* *Tito* → *Titoism*
solo → *soloist* *Zola* → *Zolaesque*

EXCEPTIONS:
cello → *cellist*
chiaroscuro → *chiaroscurist*
Leonardo → *Leonardesque*
Michelangelo → *Michelangelesque*
Nazi → *Nazism*/but also *Naziism*
propaganda → *propagandist*
quattrocento → *quattrocentist*

1.13.3 Geographical and personal names ending in -a regularly drop the *-a* before the suffix *-an/-ian:*

Africa → *African* *America* → *American*
Alberta → *Albertan* *Canada* → *Canadian*
North Carolina → *North Carolinian*
Seneca → *Senecan* *Victoria* → *Victorian*
Venezuela → *Venezuelan*

1.13.4 Some geographical names ending in -o drop the *-o* before *-an/-ian:*

Borneo → *Bornean*
Mexico → *Mexican*
Morocco → *Moroccan*
Ontario → *Ontarian*
San Diego → *San Diegan*
San Francisco → *San Franciscan*

1.13.5 Scientific terms of Greek or Latin origin ending in -a regularly drop the *-a* before a suffix beginning with a vowel:

pleura → *pleural*
urea → *urease, ureic*
urethra → *urethral*

1.13.6 Words ending in -o insert *e* before suffixal *-y:*

goo → *gooey* *mosquito* → *mosquitoey*

1.13.7 Geographical and personal names ending in -o or a combination of vowels pronounced \ō\ often insert *n* or *v* before *-an/-ian:*

Buffalo → *Buffalonian*
Cicero → *Ciceronian*
Draco → *Draconian*
Harrow → *Harrovian*
Marlow → *Marlovian*
(compare *Peru* → *Peruvian*)
Thoreau → *Thoreauvian*
Toronto → *Torontonian*

but some geographical names ending in *-o* remain unchanged before *-an:*

Chicago → *Chicagoan*
Colorado → *Coloradoan*

1.14 When adding a prefix that forms a new word, a base word usually remains unchanged:

act → *enact*
call → *recall*
change → *exchange*
danger → *endanger*
deck → *bedeck*
fill → *fulfill*
prove → *disprove*
roll → *enroll*
veil → *unveil*

EXCEPTIONS:
words ending in *-ll* often drop one *l* when adding a prefix; this practice, common in Britain, is widespread also in the U.S., but the unchanged (*-ll*) forms prevail in this country:

fill → *fulfil, fulfilment*
roll → *enrol*
thrall → *enthral*

By analogy even some infinitives which are not derivatives of English base words sometimes drop one *l*. For these words, too, the one *-l* spelling prevails in Britain, whereas in the U.S. it exists side by side with the *-ll* form:

distil/distill
instal/install
instil/instill

1.15 Two or more words joining to form a compound usually retain the full spelling of both component words:

billfold *self-conscious*
father-in-law *sidestep*
freedom-loving *well-bred*
love-lies-bleeding *wholehearted*
makeup *widespread*
man-of-war *workhouse*
narrow-minded

For the spelling of such compounds (separate, closed, or hyphened) see the section on "The Writing of Compounds".

EXCEPTIONS:
many compounds which are long-established in the language and in which the full literal force of one or both elements has been weakened or lost have dropped a letter from one, sometimes both, of the original elements:

almighty, almost, alone, already, also, although, altogether, always
withal, therewithal, wherewithal
welcome, welfare
Candlemas, Christmas, Lammas, Michaelmas
artful, hateful, rueful, woeful/woful
chilblain
fulfill
namesake
neckerchief
numskull/but also *numbskull*
pastime
until
wherever

Many words which are not readily recognizable as compounds resulted from the joining of two words in the Old or Middle English periods (*lord*, from OE *hlāfweard*, bread keeper; *threshold*, from ME *threshwold*, (a piece of) wood to tread (on); *woman* from OE *wīfmann*, a wife man).

2. VARIANTS

2.0 Many English words may be spelled in more than one way. The variant used may be a matter of individual choice, or it may be regional. One form may be usual in one region (as the U.S.), and a variant may be usual in another region (as Britain). Some of the more conspicuous U.S./British variations are:

U.S.	BRITISH	EXAMPLE	SEE
-ction	*-xion*	*connection/connexion*	**2.5**
-dg-	*-dge*	*judgment/judgement*	**1.7**
e	*ae, oe*	*eolian/aeolian ecology/oecology*	**2.2**
-er	*-re*	*theater/theatre*	**2.7**
-ize	*-ise*	*organize/organise*	**2.10**
-l-	*-ll-*	*leveling/levelling*	**1.4.4**
-ll-	*-l-*	*enrollment/enrolment*	**1.6**
-or	*-our*	*humor/humour*	**2.12**
-s-	*-c-*	*defense/defence*	**2.14**

The variations treated in the following sections are not regional unless the contrary is stated.

2.1 -able/-ible. English has a large group of adjectives in *-able*, another in *-ible;* the force of the suffix in both groups is the same. Many of these adjectives are from Latin adjectives in *-abilis* and *-ibilis; -abilis* occurs after first-conjugation stems, *-ibilis* after stems of the other conjugations. With *-abilis* the stem used is the present, with *-ibilis* it is sometimes the present, sometimes the participial. Examples: (first conjugation) *laudabilis;* (second, third, fourth conjugations respectively, present stem) *horribilis, credibilis, audibilis;* (second, third, fourth conjugations respectively, participial stem) *risibilis, defensibilis, sensibilis*. These and many other such Latin adjectives have been borrowed by English, with change of *-ilis* to *-le*. In addition, many others have been analogically formed in English, or in French and borrowed by English. Since Latin provides precedent for either the present or the participial stem with *-ibilis*, two quite or substantially synonymous *-ible* words with different stems have in some cases been introduced into English (*corrodible/corrosible, submergible/submersible*). Further, *-able* has become a productive suffix in English and has been attached to a multitude of English verbs. Many of these that are Latin-derived are (*a*) from second-, third-, and fourth-conjugation stems, or (*b*) from first-conjugation participial stems, with none of which *-abilis* occurs. Hence, English has a few variants of the type *preventible/preventable* (class *a*) and a probably larger number of the type *educable/educatable* (class *b*).

2.2 e/ae, o/oe. The digraphs *ae/æ* and *oe/œ* of Latin and of Greek transliterated into Latin are sometimes retained in English derivatives and borrowings, sometimes reduced to *e*. Sometimes one form strongly prevails throughout English, and variants are infrequent: *economy, enigma, estuary, ether, Caesar, Aegean, aer-* words (as *aerial, aeronautics*). When variants are frequent, the one-letter variant is nearly always in greater favor in U.S. use than in British:

anemia/anaemia
anesthetic/anaesthetic
diarrhea/diarrhoea
edema/oedema
esophagus/oesophagus
estrogen/oestrogen
etiology/aetiology
fetus/foetus
hemoglobin/haemoglobin
maneuver/manoeuvre (fr. French)

2.3.1 chemistry suffixes for compounds, classes of compounds, and radicals: -an/-ane, -id/-ide, -in/-ine, -ol/-ole, -on/-one, -oyl/-yl, -yne/-ine. Words in *-ane* usually designate saturated carbon compounds (as paraffin hydrocarbons and many cyclic hydrocarbons) and in the U.S. also completely hydrogenated parent heterocyclic compounds (as *dioxane*); words in *-an* designate other chemical compounds (as *furan, pyran*) including in Britain completely hydrogenated parent heterocyclic compounds (as *dioxan*). *-ide* has superseded *-id* except in a few terms (notably *lipid* as preferred by most biochemists). In organic chemical names *-ine* designates bases; *-in* designates compounds that are neutral or not distinctly basic or acidic (as glycerides, proteins, porphyrins, and some six-membered heterocyclic compounds). In systematic names *-ol* designates alcohols and phenols, whereas *-ole* designates other compounds (as most five-membered heterocyclic compounds and some others). Words in *-one* designate ketones, quinones, lactones, or other compounds containing a carbonyl group and also sulfones and sultones; in *-on*, other compounds (as *nervon*). *-oyl* is now preferred to *-yl* by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry for most organic acid radicals (as *carbamoyl, phthaloyl*). With one or two exceptions *-yne* has superseded *-ine* in systematic names for carbon compounds containing triple bonds (as hydrocarbons of the acetylene series).

2.3.2 -ene/-en. The spelling *thiophene* is used in the U.S., whereas *thiophen* is used in Britain. (In both countries *-ene* is used especially for carbon compounds containing double bonds, as olefin hydrocarbons and aromatic hydrocarbons.)

2.3.3 -e. In systematic chemical names a final *e* (as in the name of a hydrocarbon) is dropped before a suffix beginning with a vowel (as *butane, butanol*, but *butanediol*).

2.4 -ant/-ent. English contains a large group of words ending in *-ant* and another in *-ent*, both pronounced \ənt\. Most of the *-ant* words stem from Latin present participles of the first conjugation (*radiant*, from Latin *radians, -antis*), the *-ent* words from Latin present participles of the other conjugations (*regent*, from Latin *regens, -entis*); but not always (*tenant*, ultimately from a Latin verb of the second conjugation, owes its *a* to Old French). The two endings do not differ in force, and, though usually all English words that derive from the present participle of the same Latin verb have *a* only or *e* only, in each of the following families of such derivatives there is variation:

a almost always	*e* almost always	*a* usually	*e* usually	*a* and *e* with about equal frequency
	repell...ncy		*repell...nt*	
		propell...nt	*impell...nt*	
		expell...nt		
pend...nt noun	*pend...ncy*			*pend...nt* adj.
	depend...nt adj.			*depend...nt* noun
	independ...nt			
	-...nce, -...ncy			
ascend...nt, -...nce				*ascend...ncy*
descend...nt				
	transcend...nt, -...nce, -...ncy			
tend...nce "care"	*tend...ncy*			
intend...nt, -...nce, -...ncy				
attend...nt, -...nce				
	superintend...nt, -...nce, -...ncy			

2.5 -ction/-xion. Most nouns ending in \kshən\ are spelled *-ction* only; a few are alternatively *-ction/-xion;* a few are *-xion* only. Those that are *-ction* only are ultimately from a Latin verb whose participial stem ends in *-ct: direction*, from *directio* from *direct(us)*. Those that are alternatively *-ction/-xion* are ultimately from a Latin verb whose participial stem ends in *-x* and whose present stem ends in *-ct;* the participial stem is the source of the *-xion* variant, the present stem is the source, usually via an English verb, of the *-ction* variant: thus *inflexion* is from *inflexio* from *inflex(us); inflection* is *inflexion* with *x* assimilated to the *ct* of English *inflect*, from *inflect(ere)*, an assimilation catalyzed by the analogy of nouns like *direction*. Nouns that are *-xion* only are ultimately from Latin verbs of which the present stem does not end in *-ct* and

which accordingly have not procreated English verbs in *-ct: crucifixion, transfixion,* and *fluxion.*

-CTION/-XION		
	U.S.	BRITISH
defle...ion	*ct* prevails *x* rare	*x* probably prevails
genufle...ion	*ct* prevails	*x* prevails
infle...ion	*ct* prevails *x* rare	*x* prevails
refle...ion	*ct* prevails *x* rare	*ct* prevails
conne...ion	*ct* prevails *x* rare	*x* prevails
comple...ion	*x* prevails *ct* rare*	*x* prevails *ct* rare

*in spite of the fact that there is a fairly common U.S. form *complected*

2.6.1 em-/im-, en-/in-. The Latin preposition or adverb *in,* in such English derivatives as *inoculate, intrude, invent,* occurs as a prefix in many Latin verbs and verb derivatives. Sometimes the *in-* is unchanged (*inoculare, intrudere, invenire*). At other times the phonetic influence of an initial consonant of the base that follows the *in-* changes the *n* to a consonant having the same articulation as the base-initial consonant. The change is to *m* before *m, b,* and *p* (*immigrare, imbibere, implorare*), to *l* before *l* (*illuminare*), to *r* before *r* (*irradiare*).

2.6.2 French — Old and Modern — has borrowed many of these compounds and retained the Latin spelling of the prefix (*inoculer, inventer, immigrer, imbiber, implorer, illuminer, irradier*). However, Latin *in* became *en* in French, and when similar compounds were constructed in French on French words as a base the vowel used in the prefix was *e*. The assimilation of the *n* to *m* before *m, b,* and *p* continued (*emmener, embaumer, employer*); the assimilation of the *n* to *l* and *r* before *l* and *r* respectively did not (*enlargier, enrager*).

2.6.3 English, like French, has borrowed many of the Latin compound verbs and retained the Latin spelling of the prefix (*inoculate, invent, immigrate, imbibe, implore, illuminate, irradiate*). English has borrowed also from French many forms in *em-* and *en-* (*embalm, employ, enlarge*). English has taken over also the prefixes *im-, in-, em-, en-* and attached them to English nouns and adjectives to make verbs, or to verbs to make other verbs (*imbed, encage, enkindle*). As in French formations, *-m* is usually used before *m, b, p* (*immarble/emmarble, imbed/embed, impanel/empanel*) but in the compound having *mesh* as base both *m* and *n* are found prefixally.

2.6.4 Of the borrowings from French *em-* and *en-* forms, and of the formations within English, some have now *e* now *i* as the prefixal vowel (*enclose/inclose, embed/imbed, embitter/imbitter*); others, some of which formerly showed the same variation, are found with *e* only or with *i* only (*embalm, encamp, impeach*). *i* is more frequent before *m* than before *n*.

2.6.5 In most of the intra-English formations the prefix adds little or nothing semantically to the base. Before an adjective or noun it serves chiefly as a sign that the adjective or noun has been made a verb. This verb-forming prefix is closest to being completely functionless when it is added to a verb: thus *kindle* and *enkindle* are not easily discriminable. If the prefix makes a substantial semantic contribution, usually the prefixal vowel is *i* and the prefixal consonant is *n* whatever letter follows (*inborn, inbound, inbuilt, inbred*/but *imbred* occasionally).

2.7 -er/-re. Some English words, mostly derived from French words in *-re,* which in turn are mostly derived from Greek or Latin, alternatively end in *-er/-re*. But the *-er,* of different origin, that is a productive suffix freely attachable to English bases (*writer, header, four-poster, New Yorker*) does not have the variant *-re*. Most of the variants are usually *-er* in U.S., *-re* in Britain:

caliber/calibre	*sepulcher/sepulchre*
center/centre	*somber/sombre*
fiber/fibre	*specter/spectre*
luster/lustre	

EXCEPTIONS:
(1) in both U.S. and British use *-re* is usually the form after *c,* the immediately following *r* ensuring the hardness of the *c* (*acre, chancre, involucre, lucre, massacre, mediocre, nacre, wiseacre*). But after *g* (which, like *c,* may be hard or soft) the same is not true (U.S. *meager*/Britain *meagre;* but both countries prefer *eager, ogre*).

(2) U.S. and British usage both prefer *cadre* \'kadrē\, *macabre, timbre* "tone quality". The latter (often \'tambə(r)\) is not to be confused with *timber* "wood" (\'timbə(r)\), a different word, which has only *-er* in both countries.

(3) although *meter/metre,* the metric-system unit of measurement (which is ultimately from Greek *metron*), and its compounds (*centimet-, decimet-, millimet-*) are *-re* in Britain, *meter* (which is *mete+ -er*) is universal in both countries for any device for measuring (electric *meter*), as is also *-meter* as the second element of many names for specific measuring devices (*altimeter, barometer, galvanometer, gasometer, ohmmeter, speedometer, thermometer, voltmeter, volumeter*). Some of these compounds are simply a joining or telescoping of an English first element and *meter* "measuring device", but most are not. In a few the quality of the *e* that follows the *m* is the same as in the simplex word; in most this *e* is of a different quality and without stress. In metric-system names the sound values in *-meter/-metre* are the same as in the simplex.

(4) although *meter/metre* "rhythm" is *metre* in Britain, for names of individual measures (*trimeter, tetrameter, pentameter, hexameter*) *-meter* is the spelling there as well as in the U.S. In these, too, the *e* following the *m* is without stress.

(5) both *theater/theatre* have wide currency in the U.S., only the second in Britain. In New York City, the theatrical center of the U.S., the spelling is usually *theatre.*
(6) *neuter* and *sober* are in both countries *-er* only.

2.8.1 -er/-or. These are the most common endings in English for agent nouns. This *-or* does not have a variant *-our* except in *saviour.* A few agent nouns have *a* rather than *e* or *o* before the *r* (*beggar, liar, pedlar* sometimes). Such nouns of this class as are based on a Latin perfect stem, whether the nouns are formed in English from an English verb so based or are taken from the Latin or, with somewhat altered spelling, from French (*author*) usually have *-or:*

actor	*fabricator*	*negotiator*
arbitrator	*incisor*	*objector*
collector	*inspector*	*operator*
conductor	*lubricator*	*supervisor*
confessor	*mediator*	*translator*
detector	*motor*	*victor*

2.8.2 Other agent nouns usually have *-er,* such as nouns based on Latin present stems and nouns based on verbs of Germanic origin:

convoker	*modifier*	*slicer*
designer	*organizer*	*stitcher*
digger	*producer*	*subscriber*
distiller	*rider*	*usurper*
drawer	*robber*	*voyager*
invader	*redeemer* (compare *Redemptorist*)	
commuter (compare *commutator*)		

2.8.3 Occasionally, however, an English agent noun, although its base is from a Latin perfect stem, has *-er* for suffix, as a less frequent variant of *-or*. In such pairs the *-or* form is on the analogy of Latin, the *-er* form is the English suffix added to an English verb that is from the same Latin perfect stem as the *-or* noun (*executor*/ archaic *executer*). Conversely, sometimes an agent noun, though its base is from a Latin present stem, has *-or* alone or as a variant of *-er*. Sometimes false analogy may be responsible: some Latin present stems have the same final consonant or consonant cluster as some Latin perfect stems (compare the present participle *reflect*[*ere*] and the past participle *elect*[*us*]); the coiner of *reflector* may have used as his model a quite regular formation of the type *elector*. So also *adaptor* and *advisor* are unexpected (compare *adapt*[*are*], *advis*[*are*]), *captor* and *supervisor* are regular (compare *capt*[*us*], *supervis*[*us*]).

2.8.4 Old French is the source of numerous *-or* agent nouns. Many are law terms or have a legal sense, and of these many have correlatives in *-ee* (*bailor, bailee*). Most of the terms below have variants in *-er,* and *-er* is the usual spelling in nonlegal use of such terms as have both legal and nonlegal senses:

abettor	*consignor*	*promisor*
alienor	*donor*	*releasor*
bailor	*mortgagor*	*surrenderor*
bargainor	*obligor*	*transferor*
barrator	*pawnor*	*vendor*
confirmor	*pledgor/pledgeor*	*visitor*

bettor (avoidance of homography with *better* "more good" may have been a factor)

2.9. -ph-/-f-. \'sälfə(r)\ as a chemical term and chemical terms based on it are usually spelled *sulf-* by U.S. scientists, *sulph-* by British scientists. Nonscientists in both countries usually spell *sulph-*.

2.10. -ize/-ise. Ancient Greek has a verb suffix *-izein,* which descended into postclassical Latin as *-izare* and into French as *-iser*. English has borrowed verbs (all of more than one syllable) containing this suffix from all three languages (*ostracize, pulverize, moralize*). In addition, English has isolated the suffix and used it quite freely, attaching it to bases both Greek (*criticize, mechanize*) and non-Greek (to Latin bases, *anglicize;* to English nouns, *victimize, memorize, dockize;* to English adjectives, *normalize, victorianize;* to proper names, *londonize, fletcherize*). In U.S. use the suffix is nearly always spelled *-ize,* even in words from French, in which the spelling is *-iser*. In Britain, however, many not only retain *s* in borrowings from French but use *s* instead of *z* in borrowings from Greek and Latin and in English formations. Many others in Britain, however, including several influential publications, use *-ize* in all words in which \īz\ is descended from Greek *-izein*.

EXCEPTIONS:
(1) although \īz\ in *exorci-e* and *chasti-e* derives (in the second somewhat circuitously) from Greek *-izein,* there is a strong preference for *s* over *z* in these words.

(2) the ending \īz\ in some English verbs (and a few nouns) not only is from etyma spelled with *s* rather than *z* but has no etymological relationship to the ending discussed in the preceding paragraph. For *appri-e* "inform" *s* strongly prevails in both the U.S. and Britain; for *appri-e* "evaluate", a rarer word, *z* seems to prevail in the U.S. and to be as common as *s* in Britain. For *adverti-e s* strongly prevails in both countries. In Britain *z* seems to prevail in *amorti-e, assi-e, recogni-e,* strongly prevails in *aggrandi-e, capsi-e, cogni-e, gormandi-e;* in the U.S. *z* alone occurs or strongly prevails in all seven words. The verb *merchandi-e* occasionally has *z,* the noun seldom. The following are usually found with *s:*

advise	*devise*	*improvise*
comprise	*disguise*	*revise*
compromise	*enterprise*	*supervise*
demise	*excise*	*surmise*
despise	*franchise*	*surprise*

(3) in the small group of words *analy-e, dialy-e, electroly-e, paraly-e,* in which *-ly-e* derives from the Greek noun *lysis, s* seems to be somewhat more common than *z* in Britain but *z* is much more common than *s* in the U.S.

2.11 -ol/-oul. In the words *mold/mould, molder/moulder, molt/moult,* and *smolder/smoulder,* the *u* is likely to be more often dropped than kept in the U.S., is almost always kept in Britain. *Molten* (from *melt*) has no variant with *u*.

2.12 -or/-our. English contains a group of *r*-final nouns that are descended from Latin nouns having nominative *-or,* that are not agent nouns (compare 2.8.1), and that are usually spelled *-or* in the U.S. but *-our* in Britain:

ardor/ardour	*labor/labour*
color/colour	*rigor/rigour*
fervor/fervour	*tumor/tumour*
honor/honour	

The first such borrowings into English were from early Old French, and the termination in both lending and borrowing language was *-or* or *-ur*. In French as spoken in Britain after the Norman Conquest the ending became *-our*. English borrowings from this Anglo-French retained the *-our,* and earlier borrowings from continental French became *-our* by assimilation. After the Renaissance made Latin more widely known, words of this category were usually borrowed, in their Latin spelling, with *-or* as the ending. Many words once spelled *-our* in English are in Britain now written *-or,* but others are not. In the U.S. the *-our* spelling is seldom used in these words.

EXCEPTIONS:
(1) although the *-our* ending formerly occurred also in agent nouns, *saviour* is the only important survival.

(2) *glamour* and *saviour* are the only two *-our* forms that have wide currency in the U.S.

(3) not all *-or/-our* words derive ultimately from Latin *-or* words (*arbor* "latticework", *armor, behavior, harbor, neighbor*).

In Britain, *u* is usually retained before suffixes that had their origin within English (*favourer, flavourful, humourless, neighbourhood, neighbourly, vapourish*); before Latin suffixes that are not freely addable to English words *u* usually disappears (*coloration, honorary, honorific, odoriferous, odorous*); before Greek and Latin suffixes that have been naturalized (*-able, -ism, -ist, -ite, -ize*) the spelling varies.

2.13 -ped/-pede (from Latin *pes, pedis,* foot). *-pede* is more common than *-ped* after *milli-* and possibly the only form after *veloci-* and *centi-*. After other elements *-ped* is usual and is probably the only form that is now used after *bi-* and *quadru-*.

2.14 -c-/-s-.

defence/defense	*pretence/pretense*
offence/offense	*vice/vise* "tool"

In all four words *c* is the preference in Britain, *s* in the U.S.; *defensive, offensive,* and *pretension,* however, are the usual word forms in both countries.

licence/license
practice/practise

U.S. usually spells *license* both noun and verb with *s;* Britain almost invariably spells the noun with *c,* usually spells the verb with *s*. U.S. uses *c* more often than *s* in the noun *practice,* uses one letter about as often as the other in the verb *practise;* Britain strongly prefers *c* in the noun (*s* seems nonexistent), *s* in the verb. Although noun and verb were once undifferentiated, on both sides of the Atlantic *prophecy* is more common for the noun, *prophesy* for the verb.

PLURALS

1. The plurals of English nouns are regularly formed in writing by the suffixation of the letter *-s* (*hat→hats*) or the letters *-es* (*cross→crosses*) and in speaking by the addition of the sound \s\ (\hat→hats\), the sound \z\ (\bói→bóiz\), or the sound \əz\ (\krós→krósəz\). Although there are many exceptions to be noted, this regularity is so dominant that in theory all English nouns may be said to be capable of an analogical plural in the letters *-s* or *-es*, and in practice little hesitation in so forming a new or unknown plural should be felt. Native speakers of English have no difficulty in using the sounds of pluralization in accordance with regular patterns. This treatment of plurals will be limited to written words, typically selected, not exhaustive.

2. -s. Most nouns simply add *-s:*

bag→bags *button→buttons*
book→books *violet→violets*

3. silent -e. Nouns ending in *-e* that is silent regularly add *-s:*

collapse→collapses *race→races*
college→colleges *ride→rides*
hedge→hedges *size→sizes*

4. -es. Nouns ending in *-s*, *-z*, *-x*, *-ch*, or *-sh* regularly add *-es:*

buzz→buzzes *gas→gases*
dash→dashes *torch→torches*
fox→foxes

5. consonant + -y. Nouns ending in *-y* preceded by a consonant regularly change *-y* to *-i-* and add *-es:*

army→armies *pity→pities*
baby→babies *sally→sallies*
courtesy→courtesies *sky→skies*
lady→ladies

except proper names:

Germany→Germanys *Kinny→Kinnys*
Kathy→Kathys *Mary→Marys*
Kentucky→Kentuckys

6. -quy. Nouns ending in *-quy* regularly change *-y* to *-i-* and add *-es:*

colloquy→colloquies *soliloquy→soliloquies*

7. vowel + -y. Nouns ending in *-y* preceded by a vowel (except those ending in *-quy*) regularly add *-s:*

attorney→attorneys *chimney→chimneys*
bay→bays *guy→guys*
boy→boys *key→keys*

8. vowel + -o. Nouns ending in *-o* preceded by a vowel regularly add *-s:*

cameo→cameos *studio→studios*
duo→duos *trio→trios*
embryo→embryos *zoo→zoos*
Romeo→Romeos

9. consonant + -o. Most nouns ending in *-o* preceded by a consonant add *-s:*

alto→altos *jocko→jockos*
bozo→bozos *piano→pianos*
burro→burros *poncho→ponchos*
chromo→chromos *silo→silos*
ego→egos *two→twos*
hippo→hippos

but other nouns ending in *-o* preceded by a consonant add *-es:*

bubo→buboes *hero→heroes*
bucko→buckoes *jo→joes*
echo→echoes *potato→potatoes*
embargo→embargoes

The consonant or cluster preceding the *-o* does not determine whether the plural will add *-s* or *-es*. A few nouns add either:

banjo→ {*banjos* / *banjoes*} *innuendo→* {*innuendos* / *innuendoes*}
bravo→ {*bravos* / *bravoes*} *motto→* {*mottos* / *mottoes*}
buffalo→ {*buffalos* / *buffaloes*} *mulatto→* {*mulattos* / *mulattoes*}
calico→ {*calicos* / *calicoes*} *proviso→* {*provisos* / *provisoes*}
cargo→ {*cargos* / *cargoes*} *tobacco→* {*tobaccos* / *tobaccoes*}
domino→ {*dominos* / *dominoes*} *tornado→* {*tornados* / *tornadoes*}
halo→ {*halos* / *haloes*} *zero→* {*zeros* / *zeroes*}

10. -oo. Nouns ending in *-oo* regularly add *-s:*

coo→coos *kangaroo→kangaroos*
cuckoo→cuckoos *tattoo→tattoos*

11. -i. Most nouns ending in *-i* add *-s:*

macaroni→macaronis *ski→skis*
rabbi→rabbis

but a few add either *-s* or *-es:*

alkali→ {*alkalis* / *alkalies*} *taxi→* {*taxis* / *taxies*}

12. -f. A few nouns ending in *-f* change the *-f* to *-v-* and add *-es:*

leaf→leaves *thief→thieves*
self→selves *wolf→wolves*

but some of these also add *-s* without consonant change:

beef→ {*beeves* / *beefs*} *loaf→* {*loaves* / *loafs*}
calf→ {*calves* / *calfs*} *wharf→* {*wharves* / *wharfs*}

13. -fe. A few nouns ending in *-fe* change *-f-* to *-v-* and add *-s:*

knife→knives *life→lives*

14. uniliteral words. Single letters, numbers, figures, and signs add either apostrophe and *-s* or just *-s:*

A→ {*A's* / *As*} *1920→* {*1920's* / *1920s*}
a→ {*a's* / *as*} *△→* {*△'s* / *△s*}
4→ {*4's* / *4s*} *#→* {*#'s* / *#s*}

15.1 nouns formed from abbreviations. Abbreviations formed by literation and used as nouns add either apostrophe and *-s* or more often just *-s:*

GI→ {*GI's* / *GIs*} *IQ→* {*IQ's* / *IQs*}
G. I.→ {*G. I.'s* / *G. I.s*} *Ph.D.→* {*Ph.D.'s* / *Ph.D.s*}

15.2 Abbreviations formed by truncation or contraction usually add *-s* without apostrophe:

apt→apts *cap→caps*
bbl→bbls *ms→mss*
bx→bxs *mt→mts*

but some become plural without any change:

1 *hr→*4 *hr* 1 *oz→*4 *oz*
1 *in→*4 *in* 1 *qt→*4 *qt*
1 *mo→*4 *mo* 1 *yd→*4 *yd*

15.3 Some single-letter abbreviations double an initial consonant:

c.→cc. (chapters) *v.→vv.* (verses, violins)
p.→pp. (pages) *M.→MM.* (Messieurs)

16. -en. One noun usually adds *-en:*

ox→oxen

and another changes the stem and adds *-en:*

child→children

and one sometimes changes the stem and adds *-en:*

brother→brethren

17. umlaut. Six nouns change the medial vowel:

foot→feet *man→men*
goose→geese *mouse→mice*
louse→lice *tooth→teeth*

Compounds in which one of these is the final element likewise change:

dormouse→dormice *eyetooth→eyeteeth*
Dutchman→Dutchmen *forefoot→forefeet*
Englishman→Englishmen *woman→women*

18. foreign endings. Many nouns of foreign origin retain the foreign plural; most of them have also a regular English *-s* or *-es* plural, which is often preferred, although sometimes a foreign plural signals a difference in meaning (compare *stadia* and *stadiums*).

18.1 Latin. Most of these common anglicized foreign words come from Latin:

alga→algae *formula→formulae*
alumna→alumnae *larva→larvae*
antenna→antennae *minutia→minutiae*
alumnus→alumni *focus→foci*
bacillus→bacilli *fungus→fungi*
cactus→cacti *radius→radii*
apex→apices *executrix→executrices*
appendix→appendices *index→indices*
codex→codices *matrix→matrices*
addendum→addenda *erratum→errata*
aquarium→aquaria *medium→media*
datum→data *ovum→ova*
emporium→emporia *residuum→residua*
corpus→corpora *genus→genera*
femur→femora *opus→opera*
crux→cruces *lex→leges*
dux→duces *pons→pontes*
gens→gentes *rex "king"→reges*
gravamen→gravamina *nomen→nomina*
apparatus→apparatus *nexus→nexus*
meatus→meatus *series→series*
custos→custodes *imago→imagines*

18.2 Greek. The second largest group of anglicized foreign words comes from Greek:

analysis→analyses *nemesis→nemeses*
basis→bases *parenthesis→parentheses*
crisis→crises *ellipsis→ellipses*
thesis→theses *genesis→geneses*
automaton→automata *ganglion→ganglia*
criterion→criteria *phenomenon→phenomena*
ephemeron→ephemera *carcinoma→carcinomata*
lemma→lemmata *dogma→dogmata*
miasma→miasmata *schema→schemata*
aphis→aphides *iris→irides*
ephemeris→ephemerides *proboscis→proboscides*
necropolis→necropoleis
cyclops→cyclopes *phalanx→phalanges*
larynx→larynges *sphinx→sphinges*
logos→logoi

18.3 Italian. A comparatively small number of Italian plurals have become anglicized:

bambino→ bambini *palazzo→ palazzi*
bandit→ banditti *seraglio→ seragli*
cicerone→ ciceroni *solo→ soli*
dilettante→ dilettanti *tempo→ tempi*
libretto→ libretti
monsignor→ monsignori

18.4 French. A small number of French plurals have been anglicized:

adieu→ adieux *bureau→ bureaux*
beau→ beaux *plateau→ plateaux*
madame→ mesdames *monsieur→messieurs*

18.5 miscellaneous.

cherub→ cherubim (Hebrew)
fellah→ fellahin (Arabic)
halakah→ halakoth (Hebrew)
Kohen→ Kohanim (Hebrew)
señor→ señores (Spanish)
seraph→ seraphim (Hebrew)

19.1 compounds. Two-word compounds consisting of initial noun plus adjective hyphened or open customarily pluralize the noun:

cousin-german→ cousins-german
heir apparent→ heirs apparent
knight-errant→ knights-errant
vicar-general→ vicars-general

but not invariably; sometimes the adjective is construed as a noun and a regular suffix is alternatively added to it:

attorney general→ {*attorneys general* / *attorney generals*}
battle royal→ {*battles royal* / *battle royals*}
beau ideal→ {*beaus ideal* / *beau ideals*}
court-martial→ {*courts-martial* / *court-martials*}
notary public→ {*notaries public* / *notary publics*}
poet laureate→ {*poets laureate* / *poet laureates*}
sergeant major→ {*sergeants major* / *sergeant majors*}

In similar-appearing compounds in which the second word is a noun a regular suffix is added at the end:

brigadier general→ brigadier generals
judge advocate→ judge advocates
lieutenant colonel→ lieutenant colonels

A few similar compounds have double plurals:

gentleman-usher→ gentlemen-ushers
lord justice→ lords justices
thing-in-itself→ things-in-themselves

19.2 Three-word compounds consisting of initial noun plus prepositional phrase hyphened or open customarily pluralize the initial noun:

aide-de-camp→ aides-de-camp
attorney-at-law→ attorneys-at-law
brother-in-law→ brothers-in-law
chargé d'affaires→ chargés d'affaires
coat of mail→ coats of mail
man-of-war→ men-of-war

20. animals. Many names of fishes, birds, and mammals have both a plural with a suffix and a zero plural that is identical with the singular. Some have one or the other. Some present a choice according to meaning or according to a special interest of the user

20.1 The following such names form a plural with a suffix (except occasionally when modified by an adjective like *wild, native, sea, mountain*):

bird	→ *birds*	*monkey*	→ *monkeys*
cow	→ *cows*	*owl*	→ *owls*
crow	→ *crows*	*parrot*	→ *parrots*
cuckoo	→ *cuckoos*	*penguin*	→ *penguins*
dog	→ *dogs*	*pig*	→ *pigs*
eagle	→ *eagles*	*rat*	→ *rats*
goat	→ *goats*	*robin*	→ *robins*
hawk	→ *hawks*	*shark*	→ *sharks*
hen	→ *hens*	*sparrow*	→ *sparrows*
lark	→ *larks*	*starling*	→ *starlings*
loon	→ *loons*	*swallow*	→ *swallows*
mole	→ *moles*	*vulture*	→ *vultures*

20.2 The following have both plurals of which the zero plural is likely to be preferred by those who hunt or fish:

albatross	→	*albatross* *albatrosses*
antelope	→	*antelope* *antelopes*
bear	→	*bear* *bears*
beaver	→	*beaver* *beavers*
buck	→	*buck* *bucks*
buffalo	→	*buffalo* *buffalos*
doe	→	*doe* *does*
duck	→	*duck* *ducks*
eel	→	*eel* *eels*
flounder	→	*flounder* *flounders*
fox	→	*fox* *foxes*
hare	→	*hare* *hares*
herring	→	*herring* *herrings*
lobster	→	*lobster* *lobsters*
mink	→	*mink* *minks*
minnow	→	*minnow* *minnows*
partridge	→	*partridge* *partridges*
quail	→	*quail* *quails*
rabbit	→	*rabbit* *rabbits*
raccoon	→	*raccoon* *raccoons*
sardine	→	*sardine* *sardines*
seal	→	*seal* *seals*
shrimp	→	*shrimp* *shrimps*
skunk	→	*skunk* *skunks*
smelt	→	*smelt* *smelts*
squid	→	*squid* *squids*
squirrel	→	*squirrel* *squirrels*
stag	→	*stag* *stags*
stork	→	*stork* *storks*
swan	→	*swan* *swans*
tiger	→	*tiger* *tigers*
tortoise	→	*tortoise* *tortoises*
tuna	→	*tuna* *tunas*
turtle	→	*turtle* *turtles*

20.3 The following have both plurals of which the zero plural is the commoner but the plural with a suffix is used to signify diversity in kind or species (*trouts* of the Rocky mountains; *fishes* of the Atlantic):

bass	→	*bass* *basses*
bream	→	*bream* *breams*
carp	→	*carp* *carps*
cod	→	*cod* *cods*
elk	→	*elk* *elks*
fish	→	*fish* *fishes*
haddock	→	*haddock* *haddocks*
halibut	→	*halibut* *halibuts*
mackerel	→	*mackerel* *mackerels*
perch	→	*perch* *perches*
pike	→	*pike* *pikes*
pollack	→	*pollack* *pollacks*
pout	→	*pout* *pouts*
roe	→	*roe* *roes*
springbok	→	*springbok* *springboks*
trout	→	*trout* *trouts*
waterbuck	→	*waterbuck* *waterbucks*

20.4 The following customarily prefer the zero plural:

bison	→ *bison*
cattle	→ *cattle*
chamois	→ *chamois*
dace	→ *dace*
deer	→ *deer*
grouse	→ *grouse*
moose	→ *moose*
muskellunge	→ *muskellunge*
pickerel	→ *pickerel*
shad	→ *shad*
sheep	→ *sheep*
swine	→ *swine*

21. numbers. A small number of general terms for numbers or quantities have both a plural form with suffix and a zero plural used in some constructions:

brace	→ *brace*, *braces*	*million*	→ *million*, *millions*
dozen	→ *dozen*, *dozens*	*score*	→ *score*, *scores*
hundred	→ *hundred*, *hundreds*	*thousand*	→ *thousand*, *thousands*

22. peoples. Many names of tribal origin have a zero plural and also an anglicized plural with suffix:

Abnaki	→ *Abnaki*, *Abnakis*	*Congo*	→ *Congo*, *Congos*
Bantu	→ *Bantu*, *Bantus*	*Eskimo*	→ *Eskimo*, *Eskimos*
Carib	→ *Carib*, *Caribs*	*Mohawk*	→ *Mohawk*, *Mohawks*

23. -ese. Most names derived from a place name and ending in *-ese* have only a zero plural:

Burmese	→ *Burmese*
Cantonese	→ *Cantonese*
Ceylonese	→ *Ceylonese*
Chinese	→ *Chinese*
Genovese	→ *Genovese*
Japanese	→ *Japanese*
Maltese	→ *Maltese*
Portuguese	→ *Portuguese*
Sudanese	→ *Sudanese*
Tyrolese	→ *Tyrolese*
Viennese	→ *Viennese*

CAPITALIZATION

1. The essential distinction in the use of capitals and lowercase letters beginning words lies in the particularizing or individualizing significance of capitals as against the generic or generalizing significance of lowercase. A capital is used with proper nouns, that is, nouns that distinguish some individual person, place, or thing from others of the same class, and with proper adjectives, that is, adjectives that take their descriptive meaning from what is characteristic of the person, place, or thing named by the noun. Most proper nouns and proper adjectives used not in the primary signification but in a derived, secondary, or special sense (as *cashmere*, the fabric; *quixotism*, *herculean*) are written usually without capitalization.

2. A capital letter in normal practice in continuous textual matter:

2.1 begins the first word of a sentence or an expression standing for a sentence ⟨You urge in vain.⟩ ⟨Recant my views?⟩ ⟨Never!⟩

2.2 usually begins a direct formal quotation ⟨God said, Let there be light —Gen 1:3⟩

2.3 usually begins a direct question within a sentence even though not quoted ⟨The eighteenth century asked of any action, Is it decorous?⟩

2.4 often and traditionally begins a line of verse:

> Our fears in Banquo
> Stick deep; and in his royalty of nature
> Reigns that which would be fear'd —Shak.

2.5 usually begins proper nouns, words used as proper nouns, and their derivatives used in the primary sense ⟨George→Georgian⟩ ⟨Spain→Spanish⟩ ⟨Americanism⟩ ⟨New-Yorky⟩ ⟨Roman customs⟩ but verbs are less often capitalized than adjectives or nouns ⟨anglicize⟩

2.6 represents the first person pronoun ⟨he and I disagree⟩

2.7 usually begins the names of peoples, races, tribes, and languages ⟨Phoenician⟩ ⟨Japanese⟩ ⟨Iroquois⟩ ⟨Indo-European⟩ ⟨Latin⟩

2.8 begins titles of honor, academic and religious titles, and professional and business titles used before proper nouns and epithets used in place of proper nouns ⟨Queen Elizabeth I⟩ ⟨His Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of New York⟩ ⟨Iron Chancellor⟩ ⟨Citizen King⟩ ⟨Old Hickory⟩ ⟨the Hoosier Poet⟩ ⟨All-America team⟩ ⟨Associate Professor John Doe⟩ ⟨Chief Engineer John Doe⟩ ⟨Treasurer John Doe⟩ but not usually when used after ⟨Henry VIII, king of England⟩ ⟨King George V, emperor of India⟩

2.9 begins official and government titles and titles of nobility (as *president, governor, senator, speaker of the House, secretary for defense, postmaster general, prime minister*) when preceding a proper name or used in direct address; as ⟨U.S. Minister John Doe⟩ ⟨Secretary John Doe⟩ ⟨His Honor the Mayor⟩ ⟨Mr. President⟩

⟨Your Honor⟩ but ⟨John Adams, president of the U.S.⟩

2.10 begins official names of national or international governmental bodies or documents and sometimes short forms of these used specifically or with a capitalized name but not usually any short forms or modified forms of them in general reference ⟨The Constitution of the United States⟩ ⟨the Eightieth Congress⟩ ⟨the Federal Reserve system⟩ ⟨Federal Reserve banks⟩ ⟨the Federal Communications Commission⟩ ⟨Charter of the United Nations (*or* the Charter)⟩ ⟨the Security Council (*or* the Council)⟩ ⟨the International Bank⟩ but ⟨according to the constitution⟩ ⟨administration policies⟩ ⟨federal agency⟩

2.11 usually begins nouns and often also adjectives that refer to the Deity and pronouns and pronominal adjectives referring to the Deity when not closely preceding or following their antecedent naming Deity ⟨God⟩ ⟨the Supreme Being⟩ ⟨the Almighty⟩ ⟨Allah⟩ ⟨Great Manito⟩ ⟨Providence⟩ ⟨Lord⟩ ⟨the Trinity⟩ ⟨Holy Ghost⟩ ⟨trust Him who doeth all things well; take time to think about God and his beneficence⟩ ⟨The Almighty has his own purposes —Abraham Lincoln⟩ ⟨so lonely 'twas, that God himself scarce seemed there to be —S.T.Coleridge⟩ ⟨Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, only in thy grace shall my soul be healed —Katherine Anne Porter⟩

2.11.1 Some writers and a few hymnals capitalize a pronoun or pronominal adjective referring to Deity, even when close to the antecedent naming Deity and thus not requiring a capital for clarity of reference ⟨a personal God, creator and governor of all, Who will bring His children into fellowship with Himself⟩ ⟨Jesus and His disciples⟩ ⟨"My Jesu, as Thou wilt"⟩ ⟨teach me, my God and King, in all things Thee to see —George Herbert⟩ ⟨God's in His heaven — all's right with the world —Robert Browning⟩ ⟨all Thy works, O Lord, shall bless Thee —*Oxford Amer. Hymnal*⟩

2.12 usually begins names for the Bible or parts, versions, or editions of it and names of other sacred books and often derivative adjectives when the adjective refers explicitly to the Bible or Scriptures (otherwise not capitalized) ⟨Bible⟩ ⟨Vedas⟩ ⟨the Scriptures⟩ ⟨Old Testament⟩ ⟨Pentateuch⟩ ⟨Apocrypha⟩ ⟨Gospel of Mark⟩ ⟨Apocalypse⟩

2.13 begins names of creeds and confessions, religious denominations, monastic orders, and *Church* when used to designate a specific body or edifice ⟨Apostles' Creed⟩ ⟨the Thirty-nine Articles of the Church of England⟩ ⟨Hunt Memorial Church⟩

2.14 usually begins holidays and holy days generally, the months of the year, and the days of the week ⟨Fourth of July⟩ ⟨Good Friday⟩ ⟨Holy Week⟩ ⟨Labor Day⟩ ⟨January⟩ ⟨next Tuesday⟩

2.15 begins names of congresses, councils, and expositions, of organizations and institutions, of governmental departments, and of political parties (but not the word *party*) ⟨the Yalta Conference⟩ ⟨the Security Council of the United Nations⟩ ⟨Louisiana Purchase Exposition⟩ ⟨the Progressive party⟩ ⟨the Smithsonian Institution⟩ ⟨Bureau of Engraving and Printing⟩ ⟨Congress of Industrial Organizations⟩

2.16 begins names of specific courts of law ⟨Circuit Court of the United States for the 2d Circuit (*but* the circuit court)⟩ ⟨the Michigan Court of Appeals (*but* the state court of appeals)⟩

2.17 begins names of treaties, laws, acts, important events, historical epochs, literary periods, wars ⟨Versailles Treaty⟩ ⟨the Crusades⟩ ⟨Middle Ages⟩ ⟨the Enlightenment⟩ ⟨the Civil War⟩ ⟨War of 1812⟩

2.18 usually begins names of geological eras, periods, epochs, strata, and names of prehistoric divisions ⟨Carboniferous⟩ ⟨Upper Jurassic⟩ ⟨Age of Reptiles⟩ ⟨Neolithic age⟩

2.19 begins names of genera but not of species in binomial scientific names in zoology and botany ⟨a marine worm (*Nereis diversicolor*)⟩ ⟨*Spiraea latifolia*⟩

2.20 begins New Latin names of classes, families, and all other groups above genera in zoology and botany but not derivative adjectives or nouns ⟨Gastropoda *but* gastropod⟩ ⟨Ranunculaceae *but* ranunculaceous⟩

2.21 usually begins a breed name ⟨Belgian hare⟩ ⟨Airedale terrier⟩ ⟨Guernsey bull⟩

2.22 begins names of planets, constellations, asteroids, stars, and groups of stars but not sun, earth, and moon unless listed with other astronomical names ⟨Mercury⟩ ⟨the planet Venus⟩ ⟨Pleiades⟩ ⟨Big Dipper⟩

2.23 usually begins generic geographical terms that form an integral part of a specific proper name (as *bay*, *borough*, *colony*, *continent*, *county*, *district*, *hemisphere*, *island*, *lake*, *mountain*, *pass*, and likewise *avenue*, *boulevard*, *bridge*, *park*, *road*, *square*, *street*) ⟨Hudson Bay⟩ ⟨Grand Canyon⟩ ⟨Niagara Falls⟩ ⟨Long Island⟩ ⟨Crater Lake⟩ ⟨Blue Ridge⟩ ⟨Park Drive⟩ but ⟨the Atlantic coast of Labrador⟩ ⟨Pacific islands⟩ ⟨Swiss mountains⟩ ⟨the Ohio river valley⟩ ⟨Indian ocean⟩ ⟨Florida keys⟩ ⟨Sahara desert⟩ ⟨born in Chekiang province⟩ ⟨on the Ohio river⟩ ⟨Oak avenue⟩ ⟨the Leeward and Windward islands⟩ ⟨at the confluence of the Missouri and Platte rivers⟩

2.24 usually begins generic political terms that form an integral part of a specific proper name, denoting a political division (as *colony*, *department*, *dominion*, *empire*, *kingdom*, *republic*, *state*, *territory*) ⟨the Holy Roman Empire⟩ ⟨the Province of Quebec⟩ ⟨the State of Ohio⟩ ⟨the Third Republic⟩

2.25 usually begins names of definite geographical divisions ⟨the Orient⟩ ⟨the Old World⟩ ⟨the Middle East⟩ ⟨the Middle West⟩

2.26 usually begins points of the compass used to designate geographical portions of a country or divisions of the world and also nouns or adjectives derived therefrom ⟨the South⟩ ⟨the Northwest⟩ ⟨a Northerner⟩ but not when used to denote direction only ⟨due east⟩ ⟨go west⟩

2.27 usually begins abstract ideas or inanimate objects personified and names of seasons only when personified or sometimes when referred to specifically or with special connotations ⟨do the bidding of Nature⟩ ⟨the Winter at Valley Forge⟩ ⟨the Plague Year of 1665⟩ ⟨where Spring her verdant mantle cast⟩

2.28 usually begins all words in titles of books, periodicals, essays, poems except unemphatic prepositions, conjunctions and articles ⟨Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew*⟩ ⟨the *Journal of the American Medical Association*⟩ ⟨"Phosphorus: Bearer of Light and Life," *Scientific American* 178:101 *ff.*⟩ and except in cataloging and often in bibliographies when only the first word and proper names are capitalized.

2.29 usually begins the article *the* when part of a proper name or title or when incorporated as part of the legal name but usually not in referring to newspapers and magazines in running text ⟨The Honorable John Doe⟩ but ⟨the *Chicago Daily News*⟩ ⟨the *Saturday Evening Post*⟩

2.30 usually begins particles in American names but in foreign names only when not preceded by a forename, a professional title, or title of nobility or of courtesy ⟨Reginald De Koven⟩ ⟨Della Crusca⟩ ⟨Von Moltke (Count von Moltke)⟩

2.31 usually begins German common nouns that have not been anglicized, when used in English text ⟨Frau⟩ ⟨Junker⟩ ⟨Luftwaffe⟩ but anglicized German nouns may be written with a small initial letter ⟨blitzkrieg⟩ ⟨gestalt⟩ ⟨leitmotiv⟩ ⟨pumpernickel⟩ ⟨rathskeller⟩ ⟨sauerkraut⟩ ⟨turnverein⟩

2.32 usually represents academic degrees ⟨A. B.⟩ ⟨LL.D.⟩ ⟨Ph.D.⟩

2.33 begins names of registered trademarks.

ITALICIZATION

1. Foreign words and phrases that are not fully naturalized are usually italicized in English context. This is done in manuscript or typescript by single underlining. The choice of roman or italic text properly belongs to the user on the basis of subject matter and expected readers. A dictionary cannot prescribe or even record in a matter so subjective. These examples simply show words and phrases that are often italicized in English context ⟨*ancien régime*⟩ ⟨*anschluss*⟩ ⟨*cognoscente*⟩ ⟨*de trop*⟩ ⟨*dolce far niente*⟩ ⟨*jeu d'esprit*⟩ ⟨*mañana*⟩ ⟨*noblesse oblige*⟩ ⟨*rapprochement*⟩ ⟨*zeitgeist*⟩

2. Titles of books (not parts of books), plays, works of art, magazines, newspapers are usually italicized but not the Bible or its books ⟨Stevenson's *Treasure Island*⟩ ⟨Verdi's *Il Trovatore*⟩ ⟨Michelangelo's *David*⟩ ⟨the *Christian Science Monitor*⟩ ⟨*Saturday Evening Post*⟩

3. Names of ships and aircraft are usually italicized ⟨Lindbergh's *Spirit of St. Louis*⟩ ⟨the carrier *Lexington*⟩

4. Names of long-range missiles and man-made satellites are often italicized.

5. A word spoken of as a word, a phrase as a phrase, a letter as a letter (except that a letter indicating shape is printed in type most nearly depicting the shape; thus, V-shaped; I beam) are usually italicized.

6. New Latin scientific names of genera, species, subspecies, and varieties (but not groups of higher rank, as phyla, classes, orders) in botanical and zoological names are italicized ⟨a thick-shelled quahog (*Mercenaria mercenaria*)⟩

THE WRITING OF COMPOUNDS

1. DEFINITION

1.1 A *compound*, as the term is used here, is a word or word group of two or more elements at least one of which is an independent word of the same language. The elements in an English compound are variously written solid, open, or hyphened when they are all English words that can be written independently. When one of the elements in an English compound is not an independent English word, the elements are usually solid (*watery, anticlerical, predate*) or hyphened (*de-emphasize*).

1.2 To show in a dictionary all of the stylings that are found for English compounds would necessitate excluding other information much more likely to be sought by the dictionary user. This dictionary therefore limits itself almost without exception to a single styling for a compound. When a compound occurs frequently and one styling predominates, this styling is used. When a compound is rare or when the examples indicate that two or three stylings are approximately equal in frequency, the choice is based on the analogy of parallel compounds or is made arbitrarily.

2. COMPOUNDS CONTAINING AN ELEMENT THAT IS NOT AN INDEPENDENT WORD

2.1 The dependent element in most compounds formed within English is a prefix or a suffix. It is added to several or many English words and exerts the same modification of sense on all of them.

2.1.1 Prefixes in borrowed compounds. In prefix-containing foreign-language compounds borrowed into English, if the prefix ends and the base word begins with the same vowel letter, a hyphen is often used between the two vowels, or a diaeresis is sometimes placed over the second vowel (*co-operate/coöperate*) but usually the form is solid (*cooperate*). If two vowels that are not identical come together at the point of juncture, usually neither hyphen nor diaeresis is used (*coalesce, coerce*). If the junctural letters are two consonants, or a vowel and a consonant, or a consonant and vowel, neither hyphen nor diaeresis is used (*collect, diagram, anarchy*).

2.1.2 Prefixes in compounds formed within English. In prefix-containing compounds formed in English a prefix and a base word are seldom open-styled. Some combinations are usually close-styled (*in-* and *un-*, as in *inexpressible, untenable*), some are usually hyphened (*ex-* in *ex-president*), some are frequently styled either way (*anti-, co-, extra-, non-, pre-, semi-*). With prefixes of this last class the hyphened styling is usual when the prefix ends with a vowel letter and the base word begins with the same letter (*anti- + intellectualism, infra- + angelic, semi- + independent*); the hyphened styling is less frequent when the junctural letters are two vowels that are not identical (*de- + adjectival, fore- + oath*); but solid styling is usual when the junctural letters are two consonants, or a vowel and a consonant (*non- + metallic, non- + alcoholic, extra- + legal*).

2.1.3 When the base word begins with a capital, a hyphen is usual (*un- + American*).

2.1.4 Some elements commonly regarded as prefixes function as adjectives when they stand open before a noun (*a pseudo liberal; quasi independence*). But a styling like *a semi annual sale* is seldom seen outside newspaper advertisements.

2.1.5 When a prefix governs two or more words, it is almost invariably followed by a hyphen, and the styling of the group of words to which the hyphen applies varies: sometimes the members of the group are left spaced, sometimes they are hyphened (*an ex-vice president/an ex-vice-president, pre-World War prices/pre-World-War prices, the ex-Republican majority leader/the ex-Republican-majority-leader*). Although spaced styling in such cases is often ambiguous, mere substitution of hyphens for spaces is not always a solution.

2.1.6 Sometimes the same succession of letters forms two words that contain the same prefix but that are different in sense, pronunciation, and styling, one word being solid and the other hyphened. In such cases the solid compound was formed in and borrowed from another language, the hyphened compound was formed in English; the second element may or may not be ultimately the same word etymologically in both cases (*recover* "to get back", *re-cover* "to cover again"; *recreation* "play", *re-creation* "a creating again").

2.2 Suffix-containing compounds. Suffixes are close-styled (*shoeless, meanness, freer*), except that a succession of three identical consonants is hyphened (*hull-less*) if one is not dropped (*hulless*).

2.2.1 Some independent English words (*like, worthy*) which are sometimes regarded as suffixes when they are joined to the word they govern may be joined by a hyphen: *Christlike/Christ-like, praiseworthy/praise-worthy*.

2.2.2 When a suffix is added to two or more words that are written separate before suffixation, the styling of these words varies (*baby farming/baby-farming, bitter-ender/bitter ender, otherworldly/other-worldly*). The composition of some of these compounds, especially those that end in *-er*, may be ambiguous. Thus *lime-juicer* "a British ship" is *lime juice + -er;* whereas *lime juicer* "a device for squeezing or juicing limes" is *lime + juicer*. Both words might appear in any of three stylings — hyphened, open, or solid.

2.3.1 Other real or apparent compounds of this category. In other compounds in which one element is also an independent English word and the other is not or seems not to be, some are usually solid (*raspberry, bonfire, bookmobile, cheeseburger*), others are usually spaced (*bez antler, tonka bean, shea tree*).

2.3.2 In some words that appear to be similar compounds the apparent independent English word is an assimilation to an English word (*crayfish, gillyflower, safflower, gridiron, andiron*). The solid styling is usual for such apparent compounds.

3. NOUN COMPOUNDS WHOSE COMPONENTS ARE WHOLE ENGLISH WORDS

3.1 Noun + noun, as in *fruit + cake, cherry + pie, ox + bow, shoulder + blade, car + load, calamity + howler, emancipation + proclamation.*

3.1.1 In most noun-plus-noun compounds the first noun is uninflected and singular. Some of these compounds are freely styled in all three ways (*prize fighter / prizefighter / prize-fighter*). Some are rarely seen, at least in American English, other than solid (*newspaper, typewriter, pineapple*). Some are usually open (*gunnery officer, secretary bird*). Since there is a long precedent for the purely uniting function of the hyphen, it is not out of place in almost any noun-plus-noun compound where both elements are lowercase (*ox-bow, power-transmission, security-regulations*), but it seems to be used less often today than it formerly was. The compounds in which it is most likely to be used are those that would be written solid except that they contain at the point of juncture letters in a sequence unusual within an English word so that apprehension of this point may be retarded. Thus the hyphen is often not so much a uniter of words as it is a separator of letters.

3.1.2 Typically, two-noun noun compounds that are often or usually solid are fairly short, are of frequent occurrence, are concrete rather than abstract, and have primary stress on the first element and secondary stress on the second element (*notebook, paperweight, grasshopper, battlewagon, newspaperman, holidaymaker*). Five-syllable solid compounds, such as the last, are comparatively rare. Compounds that sometimes have even stress usually solidify only if short and very common (*corn + meal, air + mail, life + blood, arm + chair, eye + tooth, pot + luck, bed + rock, jaw + bone, barb + wire, car + load, bow + knot, death + bed, bell + wether*).

3.1.3 Falling accentuation (primary stress on first element and secondary stress on second element) is almost a prerequisite to solidification. Observation of how compounds in the spoken language are stressed provides information of possibly more value than an examination of how compounds in the written language are styled. A large proportion of the compounds that are written solid may with equal acceptability be open or hyphened' (*matchbox/match box/match-box*); but in the spoken language falling stress may be acceptable whereas even stress may not be, except when one is making a contrast between one compound and another with the same first element (*matchbox, matchstick*); in such contrasts supersession of the "normal" stress is regular. But the accentuation of compounds, like the accentuation of noncompound phrases, is a matter of usage, which does not fall into neat patterns. In some cases the meaning of a compound is a reliable guide to its accentuation, in other cases not. The native speaker knows that if *wood + box* means "a box made of wood" the stress is \'ˌ=\ and that if it means "a box in which wood is placed" the stress is \'=ˌ=\. On the other hand he may be unable to be sure of the stress of another compound even after reading a definition of it. Some speakers stress a compound one way, and other speakers another way. To make rules that would cover the stress of all compounds seems impossible. Certain conditions seem to make for one kind of stress or the other; these conditions leave the stress on many compounds unexplained.

3.1.4 In what follows

A= *1st half of a two-part compound*
B= *2d half of a two-part compound*
C= *3d part of a three-part compound*

The relative specificity of B seems to account for many variations in stress between compounds whose elements stand in the same logical relationship to each other: the more specific, the less general and inclusive B is, the more likely the compound is to have even stress; thus *'town + 'hall* but (in the same sense) *'town + ˌhouse; hall* is a more specific term than *house*, whose wide applicability is shown by the combinations or phrases *doll + house, chicken + house, discount + house, mail + order + house*, the *houses* of Congress or Parliament, the *house* of Rothschild. Other examples: *'finger + 'nail* (sometimes) but *'finger + ˌtip, 'alligator + 'pear* but *'alligator + ˌweed, 'timothy + ˌgrass* but *'timothy + 'hay, 'church + ˌservice* but *'church + 'liturgy, 'corner + 'store* but *'corner + ˌstone, 'key + 'signature* but *'key + ˌnote, 'desk 'drawer* but *'desk ˌleg*.

3.1.5 Compounds that name something which requires the synchronous association or combination of what is named by A and what is named by B are usually even-stressed: *'leather + 'shoe* but *'shoe + ˌleather* (*shoe + leather* can exist even though it may never be made into a shoe, or has ceased to exist in the form of a shoe), *'bottle + 'beer* but *'beer + ˌbottle, 'paper + 'book* but *'book + ˌpaper, 'beef + 'soup* and *'beef + 'stew* but *'beef + ˌbroth* (the last is merely a product of beef flesh, which is not present in the broth as it is in the soup and stew). Among the most numerous members of this category are compounds in which A names a thing of a sort that is the sole or an essential ingredient of B: *'cherry + 'pie* (cherries or something of the sort — berries, apples, apricots, peaches — are a necessary part of a pie), *'gold + 'cup, 'glass + 'pendant, 'kid + 'gloves, 'rye + 'bread*. When A is a thing of a sort that is secondary or incidental to B, falling stress is more likely: *'fruit + ˌcake, 'raisin + ˌbread* (cake and bread can be quite plain, without anything of the order of raisins or other fruit). Compounds of the first category mentioned in this paragraph may have falling stress if B is lacking in specificity: *'glass + ˌware, 'paper + ˌgoods*.

3.1.6 When A and B stand in an appositive relationship to each other, the stress is usually even: *'baby + 'boy, 'woman + 'driver. Boy + friend*, however, has falling stress. It differs from the first two compounds in not being literal when it does not mean any friend who is a boy.

3.1.7 Metonymic compounds (compounds that name an entire thing by naming some feature of the thing, the first element sometimes being metaphorical) invariably have falling stress. They rarely have open styling. If they are not long and if there is no troublesome series of letters at the juncture, they are commonly solid: *sheath + bill, frog + mouth, paper + back, egg + head, leather + neck, butter + fingers;* otherwise they are usually hyphened: *violet + ear*.

3.1.8 There is a numerous class of words in which the second element is a verb plus *-er* or *-ing* and in the definition of which the first element is the object of the verb or the object of a preposition following the verb: *orange + sucker, potato + digger, baby + sitter*. These nearly always have falling accent, and appear quite freely in all three possible stylings. The hyphen is more often used in this class than it is in most other classes.

3.1.9 The relationship of the three elements in the preceding class of compounds can be represented thus: (A) (B, suffix). There is another class of compounds in which two elements are followed by a suffix (one of which may be *-er*, as in the preceding class) but in which the relationship of the three elements is different. Such compounds are *broad jumper* and *Bay Stater* in which the relationship is (A,B) (suffix), not (A) (B, suffix). Another such compound is *gold + medal + -ist*. Such compounds follow the accentuation of the two-part compound to which the suffix is added: *'broad + ˌjump (er), 'Bay + ˌState (r), 'gold + 'medal (ist)*. Such compounds exhibit all three stylings. In noun compounds of the class (A,B) (suffix), both of the first two elements need not be nouns: *bitter + end + -er, America + first + -er*.

3.2 Noun+(')s+noun, as in *fool(')s+cap, cock(')s + comb, woman(')s + club, women(')s + club,* or **noun+s(')+noun,** as in *boys(')+club, ladies(')+room*.

3.2.1 When these have a literal meaning, they are often written open, and with an apostrophe

before the *s* if the first element is in the singular (*red as a cock's comb, a man's house is his castle*) or in the plural but not ending in *-s* (*children's clothes*). A few literal compounds of this class, however, are solid and without apostrophe, especially by assimilation to a form that is usual or frequent for an extended sense; thus *cockscomb* occurs for both the comb of a cock and a garden plant; *menswear* and *womenswear* occur usually. If the elements are written solid the apostrophe is not used, whether the first element is singular or plural (*foolscap*/never *fool'scap*, *menswear*/probably never *men'swear*). If the first element is singular and the elements are spaced, the apostrophe is not omitted: *a fool's cap, a man's thoughts, a woman's thoughts.*

3.2.2 When the compound is literal in meaning and open, and the first element is a plural ending in *-s* or is the possessive of a collective singular, the apostrophe is often omitted in titles in which the first element means "for the use of" or "operated by": *farmers(') cooperative, a students(') dictionary, People(')s Industrial Bank, Ladies(') Aid Society.* When the first element is the possessive of a plural that does not end in *-s*, omission of the apostrophe seems to be less frequent: *women's club/womens club.*

3.2.3 The first element may in some cases be either singular or plural: *woman's club/women's club/womens club.*

3.2.4 Compounds in which the first element has a possessive *s* are very common in an extended or figurative sense, especially in plant names. Use of the apostrophe seems to be usual for such compounds and the hyphen is sometimes used. There is often variation between a singular and a plural first element: *baby's breath/babies' breath, lady's slipper/ladies' slipper, lady's-eardrop/ladies'-eardrop.* The solid form without apostrophe also occurs: *cockscomb, foolscap, swansdown.*

3.3 Adjective + noun, as in *blue + bird, black + tern, red + head, blue + blood.*

3.3.1 When an adjective and an immediately following noun are used with full literalness of meaning and nonattributively, the two are written with a space between and are spoken with level stress: *I saw a 'blue 'bird* (a bird that was blue; variety unknown), *a doll with a 'red 'head.* But when there is some abridgment of full literalness, the adjective and the noun may be written solid or hyphenated and be spoken with falling stress: *I saw one jay and two 'blue,birds* (two *'blue 'birds* of the variety known to scientists as *Sialis sialis;* the jay is also a *'blue 'bird*); *redheads are proverbially hot-tempered.* Here again, however, as in the case of noun + noun compounds, specificity is important: the more specific the second element of the compound, the more likely the compound is to be written spaced and pronounced with even stress. Thus a typical dictionary definition of *blue + bird* begins "any of several birds more or less blue above", and a typical definition of *black + tern* begins "any of several small terns with black plumage"; but the first is usually *'blue,bird,* the second is usually *'black 'tern.*

3.3.2 Metonyms with an adjective as the first element, like those with a noun as the first element, have falling stress and are usually solid or hyphenated: *'red + ˌhead, 'hot + ˌspur, 'free + ˌstone, 'blue + ˌstocking, 'yellow + ˌjacket.*

3.3.3 Adjective + noun pairs in which the application of the adjective to the noun is not a literal one commonly have falling stress and may be hyphened or solid; but the solid styling is less frequent than for specifying compounds like *black + bird: sick + call, cold + chisel, easy + chair.* Some of these can also be analyzed as noun + noun compounds (a call for the sick).

3.3.4 A few literal even-stressed adjective + noun compounds are styled in any of the three possible ways: *good + will, long + suffering, loving + kindness.*

3.4 Verb + noun, as in (a) *kill + joy, pick + pocket, cure + all, turn + coat, skin + flint, sling + shot, tattle + tale,* and (b) as in *bake + shop, turn + table, drip + coffee, try + square.*

3.4.1 In the (a) class the second element is the direct object of the verb. Words of this class have falling stress and are not open-styled. They are usually solid if short and if there are no troublesome letter combinations, like *e + a* in *cure + all,* which makes a hyphen usual.

3.4.2 In the compounds in class (b) the second element is not the direct object of the first element. It is impossible to be sure whether the first element of many compounds of this class is to be regarded as a verb or a noun. No practical difficulty arises from this because the styling and stress of these compounds parallels that of noun + noun compounds: all three stylings occur, and the stress is falling in some cases, level in others.

3.5 Particle + noun, as in *down + pour, down + draft, down + card, out + come, out + house, on + rush, on + going, on + position.*

3.5.1 A particle, as used here, is one of a small class of words that have sometimes adverbial, sometimes adjectival, sometimes prepositional force. When a verbal idea is present in the noun that is the second element, as it commonly is when the second element is identical in spelling with a corresponding verb, or when the second element ends in *-ing*, such compounds are rarely open, and the solid styling is more frequent than the hyphened: *down + pour, on + going.* When the second element is a concrete noun without any verbal idea and the first element has adjective force, all three stylings may occur: *down + card, down + pipe, off + horse, out + garrison, through + street, up + train.*

3.6 Noun + adjective, as in *battle + royal, court + martial, cousin + german, letters + patent, postmaster + general, sum + total.* These occur both hyphened and spaced.

3.7 Verb or verb derivative + adverb, as in *write + up, lean + to, pin + up, cut + up, shoo + in, follow + through, grown + up, get + together, shut + in, damping + off, goings + on, passer + by, hanger + on.*

3.7.1 Both the solid and the hyphened stylings are common for such of these nouns as do not have a first element ending in the suffix *-ing* or *-er.* The hyphen prevails when both junctural letters are vowels, as in *write + up, shoo + in.* For compounds whose first element ends in the suffix *-ing*, both the hyphened and the open styling are common. For compounds whose first element ends in the suffix *-er*, the hyphened or solid styling is usual, the open styling occasional.

4. VERB COMPOUNDS WHOSE COMPONENTS ARE WHOLE ENGLISH WORDS

4.1 A verb and an adverb that accompanies and follows it usually have a space between them: *to throw out a ball, to throw a ball out, to talk loudly.* An adverb preceding a verb usually has a space following: *he loudly demanded reform, I well remember the day, he soon returned;* but the words considered as particles (in 3.5.) are usually not followed by a space but are close-styled, less often hyphened: *to uproot*/less often *up-root an evil.*

4.2 When a solid or hyphened noun compound is used as a verb by functional change, the styling of the noun compound is generally retained. Thus one who uses the solid or hyphened styling for the nouns *snow + shoe, sand + bag, court + martial* will probably use the same styling in *to snow + shoe across a field, to sand + bag a dike, to court + martial a soldier.*

4.3 For compound verbs that do not belong to any of the categories enumerated in the preceding paragraphs all three stylings are found. The hyphened styling is the most frequent; the open styling seems to be less common in formal than in informal English. Examples: *to double + space a manuscript, to heat + treat a metal, to cold + roll steel, to rotten + egg a speaker.*

4.4 A verb compound that has a verb as its second element and that has the suffix *-ing* at the end of the verb may be hyphened when an object follows but either hyphened or spaced when no object follows. Thus the same writer may write *heat-treating these metals is not recommended* but *for these metals, heat treating is not recommended.* In the latter, *heat + treatment*, whose usual styling is probably open, could be substituted.

5. ADVERB COMPOUNDS

5.1 Compound adverbs of the type illustrated by *to run hot + foot to the window, to go bare + foot, recommended sight + unseen, to win hands + down, to dive in head + first* are infrequently found, and at least two stylings can be found for all of these and for some, three. Combinations of adjective + noun are likely to be solid (*hotfoot*), but if the first element is a plural noun or the second a past participle, the form is likely to be open (*arms akimbo, feet first, sight unseen*).

5.2 Compound adverbs like *light + hearted + -ly* usually follow the styling of the corresponding compound adjective. See 6.5.

5.3 Some compounds with adverbial force consist of a preposition followed by a noun, with loss of the commonly preceding article: *down + town, up + stream, below + stairs, between + decks, over + board.* Although each of the three stylings occurs, the solid is probably usual for most.

6. ADJECTIVE COMPOUNDS

6.1 Noun or adjective + adjective or participle, as in *snow + white, home + grown, red + hot, rusty + red, bitter + sweet, acrid + smelling, smoke + filled.* These are usually hyphened, occasionally solid (when the compound is short and common), or less frequently open (more often in predicative than in attributive position).

6.2 Adverb + adjective or participle, as in *well + known, better + known, widely + acclaimed, very + ignorant, twice + told.* The solid styling sometimes occurs for these compounds when the first element is a word freely usable as an adverb (*straight + forward, plain + spoken*). Most adverb + adjective compounds are either hyphened or open. In attributive position an adverb + adjective compound is most likely to be open if the first element is an adverb ending in *-ly* (*an extremely + important matter*); is most likely to be hyphened if the first element is an adverb that is identical in spelling with an adjective: *a slow + moving van.* Here a hyphen between *slow* and *moving* tells the reader that the writer has in mind a van of no particular variety that is moving slowly; a space between *slow* and *moving* would leave the expression open to the interpretation that the van is a variety known as a moving van and that it is slow; if the latter were the writer's intent, he might very well make it clear by inserting a hyphen between *moving* and *van*, even though he might use the open styling in *the moving + van has arrived.* In predicative position, open styling is more frequent than in attributive position; it is the most frequent styling by far when the first element has only adverbial use (*his hair is now + gray, he was once + wealthy*); it is less frequent when the first element is a form that is used as both adverb and adjective (*the van was large and slow + moving, he is plain + spoken*).

6.3 Particle + participle, as in *out + spoken, up + swept, in + curving, out + bound.* These are solid or, less often, hyphened, whether attributive or predicative.

6.4 Noun or adjective + noun, as in *home + town boy, seed + case integument, stove + pipe hat, grandfather + clock collector, short + term loan, small + store owner.* Pairs that are consistently solid or hyphened in nonattributive position are usually so in attributive position: *the seedcase/seed-case is tough, the seedcase/seed-case integument, twenty blackbirds, a blackbird hater.* Sometimes a writer who uses the spaced styling nonattributively uses the solid styling attributively: *cut with a jig saw; a jigsaw puzzle.* Ordinarily, however, noun pairs that are open-styled nonattributively are either hyphened or open attributively; the open styling is more common in informal than formal English. Noun + noun + noun groups are probably less often ambiguous than adjective + noun + noun groups and accordingly are probably less often written with a space between A and B. Thus *feed + store owner* presents little or no ambiguity, whereas *small + store owner* written with a space between *small* and *store* is apprehensible, if the context affords no help, either as "owner of a small store" or "store owner who is small". If the first is the meaning intended, many would insert a hyphen between *small* and *store;* if the second many would insert a hyphen between *store* and *owner.*

6.5 Adjective or noun + noun + -ed, as in *red + head + -ed, club + foot + -ed, hot + temper + -ed, cloud + cap + -ped.* In these the middle element and the suffix are always solid. The first and middle elements are seldom spaced, whether in predicative or attributive position; are usually hyphened; are solid in a few short compounds of frequent occurrence.

6.6 Adjective or participle + particle, as in *to be hard + up, to be done + in, to be fed + up, warmed + over cabbage, a turned + down collar.* These are usually spaced in predicative position, hyphened in attributive position. When a prefix is added, the prefix and the middle element are usually written solid; the middle element and the particle are either spaced or hyphened in predicative position, hyphened in attributive position: *an un + heard + of accomplishment, such appliances were un + dreamed + of in those days.*

6.7 Preposition-initial adjective compounds, as in *down + stream, up + hill, over + seas, out + of + date, on + the + house, down + in + the + mouth.* Two-part compounds with no article between are usually solid, less often hyphened or open, in attributive position; in predicative position both solid and open stylings are common: *an up + hill pull, over + seas possessions, the race will be down + stream.* Compounds having three or more parts are open or hyphened in predicative position, usually hyphened in attributive position: *book is out + of + date, an out + of + date book, looked down + in + the + mouth.*

6.8 When something in the typography makes the interrelationship of a multiple-word adjective obvious, the hyphen is usually omitted:

A Jim Crow law	(capital letters)
an *a priori* argument	(italics)
his "big shot" talk	(quotation marks)

In an expression like *April + fool joke, Indian + club enthusiast*, where the typography of one member of the attributive (*April*) does not parallel that of the other (*fool*), the hyphen is frequently or usually present (*April-fool joke*).

6.9 Compound adjectives not covered by any of the categories enumerated above are usually hyphened: *a pop + up toaster, a middle + of + the + road course, his never + the + twain + shall + meet policy.* The solid styling is found occasionally for some shorter compounds, as *pop + up.* The open styling is more common in informal than formal English: *a middle of the road course.*

MERRIAM-WEBSTER PRONUNCIATION SYMBOLS

For greater detail and for some symbols not shown below see "Guide to Pronunciation"

ə .....**a**bana, c**o**llect

ˈə, ˌə h**u**mdr**u**m

ə̄ .....as in one pronunciation used by *r*-droppers for b**ir**d (alternative \əi\)

ə̇ .....two-value symbol equivalent to the unstressed variants \ə\, \i\, as in hab**i**t, duch**e**ss (\ˈhabə̇t\ = \ˈhabət, -bit\)

ᵊ .....immediately preceding \l\, \n\, \m\, \ŋ\, as in batt**le**, mitt**en**, and in one pronunciation of cap **and** bells \-ᵊm-\, lock **and** key \-ᵊŋ-\; immediately following \l\, \m\, \r\, as in one pronunciation of French tab**le**, pris**me**, tit**re**

əi ....as in one pronunciation used by *r*-droppers for b**ir**d (alternative \ə̄\)

ər ....op**er**ation; stressed, as in b**ir**d as pronounced by speakers who do not drop *r;* stressed and with centered period after the \r\, as in one pronunciation of b**ur**ry (alternative \ə̄r\) and in one pronunciation of h**ur**ry (alternative \ə·r\); stressed and with centered period between \ə\ and \r\, as in one pronunciation of h**ur**ry (alternative \ər·\)

a .....m**a**t, m**a**p

ā .....d**ay**, f**a**de, d**a**te, **a**orta

ä .....b**o**ther, c**o**t; most American speakers have the same vowel in f**a**ther, c**a**rt

ȧ .....f**a**ther as pronounced by speakers who do not rhyme it with b**o**ther; f**a**rther and c**a**rt as pronounced by *r*-droppers

aa ...b**a**d, b**a**g, f**a**n as often pronounced in an area having New York City and Washington, D. C., on its perimeter; in an emphatic syllable, as before a pause, often \aaə\

ai ....as in some pronunciations of b**a**g, b**a**ng, p**a**ss

au̇ ...n**ow**, l**ou**d, some pronunciations of t**a**lcum

b .....b**a**by, ri**b**

ch ....**ch**in, nature \ˈnāchə(r)\ (actually, this sound is \t\ + \sh\)

d .....el**d**er, un**d**one

d· ....as in the usual American pronunciation of la**tt**er, la**dd**er

e .....b**e**t, b**e**d

ˈē, ˌē b**ea**t, nosebl**ee**d, ev**e**nly, sl**ee**py

ē .....as in one pronunciation of even**ly**, sleep**y**, env**i**ous, ign**e**ous (alternative \i\)

ee ....(in transcriptions of foreign words only) indicates a vowel with the quality of *e* in *bet* but long, not the sound of *ee* in *sleep: en arrière* \ä⁼nāryeer\

eu̇ ...as in one pronunciation of **e**lk, h**e**lm

f .....**f**ifty, cu**ff**

g .....**g**o, bi**g**

h .....**h**at, a**h**ead

hw ...**wh**ale as pronounced by those who do not have the same pronunciation for both *whale* and *wail*

i .....t**i**p, one pronunciation of banish (alternative unstressed \ē\), one pronunciation of hab**i**t (alternative \ə\; see ə̇)

ī .....s**i**te, s**i**de, b**uy** (actually, this sound is \ä\ + \i\, or \ȧ\ + \i\)

iu̇ ....as in one pronunciation of m**i**lk, f**i**lm

j .....**j**ob, ge**m**, e**dg**e, procedure \prəˈsējə(r)\ (actually, this sound is \d\ + \zh\)

k .....**k**in, **c**oo**k**, a**ch**e

k̲ .....as in one pronunciation of lo**ch** (alternative \k\), as in German i**ch**-laut

l .....**l**ily, poo**l**

m ....**m**ur**m**ur, di**m**, ny**m**ph

n .....**n**o, ow**n**

n ....indicates that a preceding vowel is pronounced with the nasal passages open, as in French *un bon vin blanc* \œ⁼bō⁼va⁼blä⁼\

ŋ .....si**ng** \ˈsiŋ\, sin**g**er \ˈsiŋə(r)\, fin**g**er \ˈfiŋgə(r)\, i**nk** \ˈiŋk\

ō .....b**o**ne, sn**ow**, b**eau**; one pronunciation of gl**o**ry

ȯ .....s**aw**, **a**ll, s**au**rian; one pronunciation of h**o**rrid

œ ....French b**œu**f, German H**ö**lle

œ̄ ....French f**eu**, German H**öh**le

ȯi ....c**oi**n, destr**oy**, str**awy**, s**awi**ng

ō͞o ...(in transcriptions of foreign words only) indicates a vowel with the quality of *o* in *bone* but longer, not the sound of *oo* in *food: comte* \kō͞o⁼t\

p .....**p**epper, li**p**

r .....**r**arity, one pronunciation of ta**r**

s .....**s**our**c**e, le**ss**

sh ....with nothing between, as in **sh**y, mi**ss**ion, ma**ch**ine, spe**c**ial (actually, this is a single sound, not two); with a stress mark between, two sounds as in death'**s**-**h**ead \ˈdeths,hed\

t .....**t**ie, a**tt**ack; one pronunciation of la**tt**er (alternative \d·\)

th ....with nothing between, as in **th**in, e**th**er (actually, this is a single sound, not two); with a stress mark between, two sounds as in knigh**th**ood \ˈnīt,hu̇d\

th̲ ....**th**en, ei**th**er (actually, this is a single sound, not two)

ü .....r**u**le, f**oo**l, y**ou**th, union \ˈyünyən\, few \ˈfyü\

u̇ .....p**u**ll, w**oo**d, curable \ˈkyu̇rəbəl\

ue ....German f**ü**llen, h**ü**bsch

ue̅ ....French r**ue**, German f**üh**len

v .....**v**ivid, gi**v**e

w ....**w**e, a**w**ay

y .....**y**ard, cue \ˈkyü\, union \ˈyünyən\

y ....(in transcriptions of foreign words only) indicates that during the articulation of the sound represented by the preceding character the tip of the tongue has substantially the position it has for the articulation of the first sound of *yard*, as in French *digne* \dēnʸ\

yü....**y**ou**th**, **u**nion, c**ue**, f**ew**

yu̇....c**u**rable

z .....**z**one, rai**s**e

zh... with nothing between, as in vi**s**ion, azure \ˈazhə(r)\ (actually, this is a single sound, not two); with a stress mark between, two sounds as in ro**s**ehill \ˈrōz,hil\

For greater detail on most of the following see the beginning of "Guide to Pronunciation" and that part of "Explanatory Notes" dealing with pronunciation (section numbers for the latter are included below)

\ ....slant line used in pairs to mark the beginning and end of a transcription: \ˈpen\

ˈ .....mark preceding a syllable with primary (strongest) stress: \ˈpenmənˌship\

ˌ .....mark preceding a syllable with secondary (next≠ strongest) stress: \ˈpenmənˌship\

ˌˈ .....combined marks preceding a syllable whose stress varies between primary and secondary: *backbone* \ˈbak≠ˌbō≠n\ (§2.2)

- .....inferior minus sign canceling a stress in the same position in a preceding pronunciation or emphasizing that a following syllable is without stress: *optimism* \ˈäptəˌmizəm\, *optimist* \-_məst\ (§2.11)

• .....mark of syllable division inserted in a sequence of sounds that can have more than one syllable division: *nitrate* \ˈnī•ˌtrāt\ (§2.1)

≍ .....symbol for the sounds of a syllable: *backbone* \ˈbak≠ˌbō≠n\ (§§2.7.1, 2.7.2)

(), (..indicate that what is symbolized between or after is present in some utterances but not in others: *factory* \ˈfakt(ə)rē\, *bar* \ˈbär, ˈbȧ(r\ (§§2.5.1, 2.5.2)

“ .....ditto mark, indicating that a preceding pronunciation is to be repeated: ¹*poise* \ˈpȯiz\ *v*, ²*poise* \“\ *n* (§§2.8.1, 2.8.2)

+ ....in an incomplete pronunciation signifies that the missing part is to be sought elsewhere in the vocabulary: *geopositive* \ˌjē(ˌ)ō+\ (pronunciation of *-positive* is to be sought at POSITIVE) (§2.9)

+V..means "when a vowel sound follows without pause, as in a suffix or another word"

| .....facilitates the placement of a variant pronunciation: *flightily* \ˈflīd•|ᵊlē, -ītˌ|, |ᵊli, |əl-\ (§2.6)

R ....labels certain pronunciations used by speakers who do not drop *r* (§2.10)

−*R*...labels certain pronunciations used by speakers who drop *r* (§2.10)

÷ ...indicates that many regard as unacceptable the one pronunciation immediately following: *cupola* \ˈkyüpələ, ÷-pəˌlō\, *sacrilegious* \÷ˌsakrəˈlijəs, -lēj-\ (§2.12)

. . . . . indicates an omission to be supplied from a preceding entry or an entry elsewhere: *dilettantish* \ˌ≠≠ˌt. . .ntish\ (four variants for the *a* are to be supplied from ¹DILETTANTE)

GUIDE TO PRONUNCIATION

By EDWARD ARTIN, Pronunciation Editor

This is a presentation of facts adequate, it is hoped, to explain the way we use our symbols in pronunciation indications in the vocabulary and to enable the consultant to infer certain pronunciations not actually shown from pronunciations that we do show. This is not a treatise on phonetics; many elementary facts of phonetics are not discussed at all (for example, the nature of most articulations). Those who desire such information should consult any of a number of good textbooks on phonetics.

The matter in this "Guide" is arranged under headings that so far as possible are in alphabetical order. Criteria for the alphabetization of some of the items have not been established by usage.

Headings that are not, that do not contain, or that are not formed by addition to, the 26 letters of the English alphabet appear ahead of everything else. Between the beginning of the first of such items and the end of the last no scheme of ordering is attempted.

The character \ə\ and modifications of it appear next.

The character \ŋ\ appears between the *n*, \n\ items and the *o*, \ō\, \ȯ\ items.

Ligatured characters are alphabetized as if they were separate letters (e.g., \œ\ is alphabetized as if it were \oe\).

A character entered as an orthographic letter appears ahead of the same character entered as a symbol of our pronunciation alphabet.

The same symbol may appear in two or more of the following forms: plain or unmodified; with diacritic above or below; reduced in size and set high as a superior character. For a symbol having two or more of these forms the alphabetization is as follows:

(1) single plain symbol, as \a\, \th\
(2) single symbol with horizontal bar above or below, as \ā\, \t͟h\
(3) single symbol with two dots, as \ä\
(4) single symbol with one dot, as \ȧ\
(5) single symbol set as a small superior, thus: \ᵊ\, \ᵊ̄\, \ᵊ̈\, \ᵊ̇\, \ʰ\
(6) multiple-character symbols come at the end of the last single symbol based on the first character of the multiple symbol. Thus \aa\ comes at the end of the series \a\, \ā\, \ä\, \ȧ\, not between \a\ and \ā\. Such multiple symbols are alphabetized without regard to diacritics or to the size of any component character, except that when such disregard results in duplication the order is as stated in (1)–(5) above. Thus \ai\ precedes \äi\ and \o͞o\ precedes \o͞ȯ\

\ \ see the section on phonemicity.

( ) two parentheses mean that whatever is indicated by the symbol or symbols between them is present in the pronunciation of some speakers and absent from the pronunciation of other speakers, or that it is present in some utterances and absent from other utterances of the same speaker, or that its presence or absence is something difficult to be sure of.

nu•mer•ous \'n(y)üm(ə)rəs\
floc•cu•lence \'fläkyələn(t)s\
chick•a•dee \'chikə(ˌ)dē, . . .\

Such pronunciations could alternatively have been shown, at greater cost of space, as \'nümərəs, 'nyü-, -mrəs\, etc.

Parentheses are often placed around one of the members of a digraph symbol when there are two pronunciation variants one of which is symbolized by the digraph and the other of which is symbolized by one member of the digraph.

var•i•ous \. . ., 'va(a)r-, . . .\ [\'va(a)r-\ = \'var-, 'vaar-, *or vice versa*\]
su•mac \'s(h)üˌmak, . . .\ [\'s(h)ü-\ = \'shü-, 'sü-, *or vice versa*\]
fair \'fa(a)(ə)r, . . .\ [\'fa(a)(ə)r\ = \'faər, 'far, 'faaər, 'faar, *or any other order*\]

There will possibly be those who will object to such symbolization on the ground that, for example, \sh\ is a single sound, not two, that \sh\ really has no \h\ in it, and that it is bad to suggest that \sh\ can be converted to \s\ by omitting a final \h\ sound. Our view is that \s(h)\ is no more objectionable than \sh\, and that dictionary users who demand \sh\ should be prepared to accept \s(h)\.

In an abbreviated variant pronunciation following a punctuation mark one of two parentheses in a preceding pronunciation may be repeated simply to provide a locator for the substitution of the second variant in a preceding pronunciation.

cre•do \'krē(ˌ)dō, 'krā(-\ [the \ā\ replaces \ē\ between \'kr\ and the first parenthesis]

An r that stands at the end of a transcription will often be found parenthesized, and the parenthesizing takes either of two forms: a left-handed parenthesis stands before the r and no right-handed parenthesis follows, as in \'mär, 'mȧ(r\ at *mar;* a parenthesis stands on either side as in \'bäthə(r)\ at *bother*. The single parenthesis will be found only in a pronunciation in which there are at least two variants separated by a comma, and never in the first variant. A preceding variant ending in r without parenthesis shows the pronunciation of those who have as many \r\ sounds in their speech as there are letters *r* and letter sequences *rr* in the spelling (but see the section on dissimilation). A variant with a single parenthesis preceding the r shows the pronunciation of those who often do not have or who never have immediately before a consonant or a pause the sound, made usually by a lifting and curling backward of the tip of the tongue, that is transcribed \r\. For details of the environments in which \(r\ is pronounced and those in which it is not, see the section on \r\.

A transcription with a parenthesis on each side of a final r, as \'bäthə(r)\ at *bother*, is an abbreviated way of writing the transcription \'bäthər, 'bäthə(r\, with explanation as for \'mär, 'mȧ(r\ in the preceding paragraph. The abbreviated transcription can be used for *bother* but not for *mar* for the reason that the vowel symbol immediately preceding the r is the same for both kinds of speech in *bother* but not in *mar*. Since by definition above the single parenthesis means that r occurs in some environments but usually not in others, we could not use \'bäthə(r\ alone as our transcription, which would not hold for those who have r in all environments. Our explanation of double parenthesis, however, in the first sentence of this section makes the two-parenthesis transcription applicable to both *r*-keepers and *r*-droppers.

= see 2.7.1, 2.7.2 in "Explanatory Notes".

\+ see 2.9 of "Explanatory Notes", and stress marks and ". . ." in this "Guide".

When a stress marking (') or ˌ appears on a syllable in the item that precedes the plus sign, the marking ˌ is to be understood as superseding a primary stress in the pronunciation that is to be supplied for the last part of the compound.

The plus sign is not necessarily an indicator of the etymological make-up of the word in whose pronunciation it is used. The etymology in square brackets, immediately following the pronunciation, is the proper source of such information. Thus the etymology of *su•per•naturalism* is plainly shown as [*supernatural* + *-ism*] but as a time-saving and space-saving device the pronunciation is shown as \ˌsüpə(r)+\ (that is, "+ the pronunciation at *naturalism*").

When the spelling that the plus sign directs the consultant to refer to in order to complete the pronunciation has two or more entries belonging to different parts of speech not identical in pronunciation, the pronunciation to be supplied is that of the spelling whose part of speech is the same as that of the compound. Thus for ¹*concorporate*, an adjective, add the pronunciation given for the adjective *corporate*, and for ²*concorporate*, a verb, add the pronunciation given for the verb *corporate*. If the compound has inflected forms for which the pronunciation is desired, this information should be sought at the entry for the word that is the last part of the compound.

When the second syllable of a word has primary stress, anything less than primary stress is not marked on the first syllable (except when the vowel of the first syllable is \ə\), although first syllables often have a degree of stress that we mark as secondary stress on any syllable except the first. Thus no stress mark appears before the \mī-\ at *microscopist* and *microscopy*, although ˌ would appear before the \-mī\ of *biomicroscopy* if we were transcribing that compound in full. We usually forgo such nicety of stress indication when we use the plus formula, however, and the pronunciation of *biomicroscopy* is shown as \"+\ (read ¦bīō for the ditto).

The reason for the use of \"+\ instead of \"\ alone as the pronunciation of a word for which the value of the ditto is to be picked up from a preceding entry is illustrated by the following sequence of entries:

neo•arsphenamine \ˌ¦nē(ˌ)ō+\
neo-assyrian \"+\
¹*neo-babylonian* \"+\
²*neo-babylonian* \"\

Use of \"\ alone at *neo-assyrian* and ¹*neo-babylonian* could mean that these two words have the same pronunciation as *neoarsphenamine*. Use of \"\ alone at ²*neo-babylonian* means that that word does have the same pronunciation as the entry preceding, ¹*neo-babylonian*.

When an initial combining form has variants and appears in a number of compounds, we often list the variants in the entry for the combining form alone, devise a formula that we equate to the variants, and pronounce compounds in which the combining form so pronounced appears by means of the formula and a plus sign.

elec•tro- *in pronunciations below*, ᵊ=ᵊ = ə¦lek(ˌ)trō *or* ē¦- *or* -ˌtrə\
. . .
¹*electrodeposit* \ᵊ=¦ᵊ= *at* ELECTRO- +\

The principal stress in the combining-form entry is altered if the stress in the compound differs.

In entries pronounced with the plus formula, usually no division marks are shown in the second part. This part may be divided at the places indicated at the entry where the pronunciation is to be sought. Divisions between the beginning of the compound and the beginning of the second element are usually shown, except that in compounds like ¹*electrodeposit* both the pronunciation and the divisions for the first part are to be sought at the entry for the initial combining form. In such compounds a division may also be made between the two components; in fact, this division is preferable to any other.

Many printers avoid dividing after a single initial letter, and no division is shown between the components of a compound when the first is a single letter, as in *asexual*.

| the vertical bar, ascender-high and descender-deep so that it will be as distinct as possible from \l\, is frequently used in transcriptions in which one or more variants are shown as an orientation mark to make it easier for the consultant to locate the part of the pronunciation in which the variation occurs. Our usual method of fixing the point of variation is to repeat, to both the left and right of the variation or to one side only, one or more characters that are common to the variants and that fulfill other functions in the transcription (sound symbol, stress mark, parenthesis). But when contiguous variations occur, or when a character that would ordinarily be used occurs more than once in a transcription, a character whose sole function is that of a locator is desirable. The vertical locator is inserted in the first variant and is repeated in the same position in one or more variants that follow:

flight•i•ly \'flīd•|ᵊlē, -īt|, |ᵊli, |ȯl-\. See 2.6 in "Explanatory Notes".

Two vertical bars have been used with some frequency to facilitate the presentation of three contiguous variations, as in

gen•er•a•tive \'jenəˌrā|d•|iv, 'jen(ə)rə|, |t|, |ēv *also* |əv\

In the variants presented after the first mark of punctuation variants of the first of the three contiguous parts end with a vertical bar, variants of the second have a vertical bar on each side, and variants of the third begin with a vertical bar.

" see 2.8.1, 2.8.2 in "Explanatory Notes".

• see "Divisions in Respelled Pronunciations".

We hear a difference between the usual American pronunciation of the two items *fly twitch* and *flight witch* and the two items *sent reagents* and *sentry agents*, for the members of each of which pairs most transcribers would show identical sequences of sound symbols. On the other hand, we do not hear a difference between the two items *wool fox* and *wolf ox*, nor between the two items *wool freight* and *wolf rate*, for the members of each of which pairs most transcribers would also show identical sequences of sound symbols. (The qualification is to be understood that our observations are based upon the pronunciation of all items without pause, punctuative or hesitative. That some are nonsense items is of no moment.) We conclude therefore that an alteration of the boundary between meaningful elements in a sequence, or that the introduction of such a boundary into a sequence that lacks it, can cause a phonetic difference in some sequences but not in others. It makes sense to treat this phonetic difference as a difference of syllable division rather than as a difference between certain sounds in the pairs of sequences, which actually it is: such an interpretation will be more readily understood by those who do not know phonetics,

and a single symbol for syllable division will do work that alternatively requires several additional sound symbols. Our symbol for a syllable division is a centered period, • ; we would use it in one position in a full transcription of items like *fly twitch* and *sentry agents* (\-ī•tw-\, \-n•tr-\) and in another position in items like *flight witch* and *sent reagents* (\-īt•w-\, \-nt•r-\); we would not use it at all in a full transcription of any of the items *wool fox*, *wolf ox*, *wool freight*, *wolf rate*. (Actually, we usually omit it in items of the first group when they are compounds of two English words and the pronunciation is limited to stress indication.) Our stress marks are not simultaneously indicators of syllable division, as they are in some systems of transcription, and their placement when no • accompanies them is arbitrary (see "Divisions in Respelled Pronunciations"). Thus our transcription at *astronomer* is \ə'stränəmə(r)\ but it is impossible to know from a comparison of normally pronounced English items containing the sequence \st\ whether the syllable division is before the \s\, between the \s\ and \t\, or after the \t\. In short, our policy in this book is to indicate a syllable division (use the mark •) only in sequences.

Examples of our use of •:

be•tween \bə•'twēn . . .\ [\tw\ different from that of *rabbit warren*.]

sight \. . . *usu* -īd•+V\ [The voiced sound that most Americans have between the first two vowels of *sight over* is different from the voiced sound that some speakers (e.g., some British speakers) have between the first two vowels of *side over* or *Cy Dover*.]

bur•ry \'bər•|ē . . .\ . . . : abounding in or containing burs . . . [Many have \'bər•ē\ for this but \'hə•rē\ for *hurry*.]

alma-ata \ˌälmə•ə'tä\ [The centered period is necessary here because in our system a doubled symbol with nothing between indicates a long monosyllabic vowel.]

For \r(•)\ at the end of a transcription, as at *knur*, see the section on \r(•)\.

\- the low-set minus sign usually cancels a stress at the same point in a pronunciation shown elsewhere, as in a preceding variant within the same reversed virgules or in a pronunciation for a preceding word in the same or another entry.

cam•era•man \'ˌ=(ə)=ˌman, -ˌmən\

¹*mer•cu•ri•al* \ˌmər'kyůrēəl, ˌmə(r)'k-, . . .\

ac•tiv•ism \'aktəˌvizəm\

¹*ac•tiv•ist* \-ˌvəst\

Occasionally ˌ merely emphasizes that the syllable that follows is without stress, as when it stands at the beginning of the first pronunciation shown for a monosyllable.

from \ˌf(r)əm, . . . \

¹*-y also -ey* \ˌē, i\

If the compound word *binaural* had been transcribed in full in the vocabulary, the stress indication would have been ˈ and would have been placed immediately ahead of the symbol \n\, as explained in "Divisions in Respelled Pronunciations". In some areas of the vocabulary we used a formula of the type \(ˈ)bīˈn+ˌ-\ for such compounds (see the plus sign), in which the purpose of the mark ˌ is to cancel the stress appearing before the first vowel at the entry *aural* in favor of the placement of stress indication for the same syllable before the \n\ in the compound, and so to guard against the interpretation that our intention as to stress is \(ˈ)bīˈn'ůrəl\. However, since we do not employ stress marks to double as syllable dividers, formulas of the type \(ˈ)bīˈn+ˌ-\ may carry nicety of stress-mark placement to excess. The shift of stress indication for *au* from ' at *aural* to ˈ at *binaural* is implied by (ˈ) or ˈ in the first member of the compound, as it of necessity must be when the plus formula is used for a compound whose second member has no stress on the first syllable. Hence in most of the vocabulary we use a formula of the type found at *exostracize*, \eks+\ (instead of \ek's+ˌ-\).

÷ see 2.12 in "Explanatory Notes".

. . . the three-dot ellipsis is often used between • • • sound symbols preceding and following for a pronounced part that will be found in a corresponding position in a preceding pronunciation either within the same or in a preceding entry.

humpty-dumpty \ˈhəm(p)tēˈdəm(p)tē, -ti . . . ti\

It may be so used for one or more of the following reasons: what it stands for may be of such length that to repeat it would consume space and distract the reader's attention from the part of the word to which we wish to draw it; it may emphasize that the pronounced parts preceding and following are concomitant variants; a duplication of sound symbols in the part of the pronunciation the ellipsis stands for may make the provision of orienting symbols from this part difficult. For additional examples see *dilettantist* and *catalogue raisonné* in the vocabulary.

Occasionally . . . is used at the end of a pronunciation consisting of stress indication only for a multiplicity of variants that it would be clumsy to indicate otherwise.

high-temperature \'=ˌ= . . .\ [see *temperature*]

In a formula such as that found in the pronunciation of the three-part entry

sul•fo•benzoic acid \ˌsəl(ˌ)fō+. . . -\

the three dots stand for the second of the three parts. The dots together with the hyphen that follows tell the consultant that to find the pronunciation of the entire entry he must look at two other entries, *benzoic* or *benzoic acid*, and *acid*.

\ə\ when a stress mark (ˈ or ˌ) stands at the beginning of the syllable in which it occurs, this symbol, called *schwa*, is pronounced as in *bud* or *nut* or the last syllable of *aqueduct;* when the syllable in which it stands is without stress mark, it is pronounced as in the first syllable of *alone* or *occur* or as in the second syllable of *colony* or as in the last syllable of *abbot* or *famous* or *sabbath* or *circus*.

Formerly nearly all phonetic alphabets used for the vowel of *bud* a symbol different from that for the vowel of the second syllable of *abbot*, and some alphabets still do. Some who are familiar only with these alphabets find the use of \ə\ in stressed syllables objectionable when they encounter it for the first time. But use of \ə\ as a symbol for both unstressed and stressed vowel is rapidly increasing, and abandonment of a separate symbol for the vowel of *bud* parallels abandonment of former symbols for half-long a, e, and o in whose stead ā, ē, and ō without stress mark are entirely adequate.

\ɚ\ used by *r*-droppers for the *-ir* of *stir* and the *-irre-* of *stirred*, and used by many *r*-droppers for the *-ur-* of *sturdy* and the *-ir-* of *bird*. It is a single sound and not a diphthong.

An *r*-dropper, symbolized by *–R* in transcriptions in this dictionary, in no case makes immediately before a pause or a consonant the *r*-sound that is characterized by the raising and bending backward of the tongue tip. Complete *r*-droppers are comparatively rare, and in the U.S. possibly nonexistent. A not uncommon phenomenon is a speaker who pronounces *bird* and the first syllable of *further* the way an *r*-keeper does but who drops the *r* of the second syllable of *further* and of words like *farm* and *form*.

In words like *bird* and *sturdy* (words not having *r* as the last letter in the orthography and not derived from such words) but not in words like *stir*, *stirred*, *stirs*, many *r*-droppers in the New York City area and in the southeastern U.S. have instead of the vowel \ɚ\ the diphthong \əi\ (see the section on \əi\). A variant vowel used by some speakers for words like *bird* and *stir* but not shown in this dictionary is \əə\ — that is, \'ə\, the vowel of *bud*, lengthened. With such speakers *bud* and *bird* have the same vowel, but it is appreciably longer in *bird*. With *r*-droppers in the U.S. the pronunciation of words like *furry* and *stirring* (two-element words whose second element is a vowel suffix or a vowel-initial suffix) is either \'fɚrē\, \'stɚriŋ\ or more often \'fər•ē\, \'stər•iŋ\, the latter being also the pronunciation of *r*-keepers. See the section on \ər(•)\.

\ɚ\ is often used by *r*-droppers as an anglicization of any of the vowels \œ\, \œ̄\, \ɶ\, \ɶ̄\ in words borrowed from a foreign language. Example: \-sɚz\ for the second syllable of *berceuse* which in French is \-sœ̄z\. This \ɚ\ anglicization is even used to some extent by *r*-keepers although it is not a sound that they use in fully English words. See \œ\.

\ə̇\ used in unstressed syllables only; the dot is not a diacritic indicating that \ə̇\ stands for something different from \ə\. Rather \ə̇\ is a compound or two-part symbol, the two components being \ə\ and the dot of the symbol \i\. \ə̇\ is used when \ə\ occurs in some dialects and \i\ in others, or when the same speaker may have \ə\ in ordinary speech but \i\ in formal speech, or in an initial position where either \ə\ or \i\ may occur depending on what precedes. Less space is required to transcribe, for instance, *rapid* as \'rapə̇d\ than to transcribe it as \'rapəd, -pid\. In positions in which we show \ə̇\, most dictionaries have long shown only \i\ — or even \e\ alternatively or alone when the orthography has *e*, as in the second syllable of *ticket*. \i\ is the pronunciation of some Americans and of most speakers of Received Standard, but most Americans make exact rhymes of *quotaed* and *quoted*, of *ballad* and *valid*, of *abbot* and *rabbit* and *rabbet*. The first member of each of these groups is shown with only \ə\ or its equivalent as the unstressed vowel.

Our system includes the three symbols \ə\, \i\, and \ə̇\ and uses \ə̇\ to mean either \ə\ or \i\. A system (or a modification of it) used by many linguists includes the three symbols \ə\, \i\, and "barred *i*", produced by overprinting the \i\ with a hyphen), and uses barred *i* in most of the places where we use \ə̇\. As used by most, it appears to be intended as a symbol for a sound distinct from \ə\ and \i\ — articulated with the tongue higher than for \ə\ and farther back than for \i\. Although it is quite true that the unstressed sound we symbolize \ə\ varies in its articulation more than any other vowel, the variation seems purely a matter of phonetic environment. If speakers do not consistently articulate within the same environment three distinct vowels symbolized by \ə\ and \i\ and barred *i*, then we need no equivalent for an unstressed barred *i*.

Barred *i* has also been used to symbolize a stressed vowel heard from some Southern speakers in the first syllable of *sister*, produced by drawing the tongue back in the direction of \u\. We have not used a symbol for this vowel in the vocabulary because the geographical and lexical incidence of the vowel does not seem to be well enough known. Some students of American speech insist that a symbol for such a stressed vowel is necessary for adequate transcription of the full range of variants heard for the adverb *just* from speakers in all parts of the U.S., on the ground that this adverb frequently has a vowel that is not the vowel of the adjective *just*, not the vowel of the noun *gist*, and not the vowel of the noun or verb *jest*. We agree but we are not convinced that (outside those areas of the South where the first vowel of *sister* is not \i\) pronunciations of the adverb *just* when the vowel is not stressed \ə\, \i\, or \e\ have any more stress to them than does the pronunciation of the *gest* of *largest*. The full range of variants for the adverb *just* is reasonably well covered for the English-speaking world as a whole when it is indicated that the vowel is \ə\, \i\, or (less frequent than the other two in standard speech) \e\, all either stressed or unstressed.

In transcriptions of uncommon words, as a space-saving device, \ə̇\ only is used where \ē\ is heard as a variant of \ə\ and \i\ as in the antepenultimate syllable of words in *-ical* or in the second syllable of *Libyco-Berber*. Such practice is not inconsistent with the widely followed practice of transcribing as \i\ the last vowel of words like *happy*, a vowel for which the symbol \ē\ better represents the usual U.S. pronunciation. The \ē\ variant is usually included in transcriptions of common words.

If we were attempting to cover British as well as American pronunciation, we would use \ə̇\ much more freely than we do in vocabulary pronunciations. In British usage an unstressed vowel whose orthographic counterpart is *i* or *e* is usually \i\, but American usage more often has \ə\ than \i\ in unstressed syllables. Even with American speakers who most often have \i\, its range is much more restricted.

\ᵊ\ (preceding \l\, \n\, \m\, \ŋ\; for ᵊ following \l\, \m\, \r\, see \lᵊ\, \mᵊ\, \rᵊ\) printed as a superior character means that a consonant following it is a syllabic consonant, that is, a consonant that immediately follows another consonant without any vowel between. Nearly all phoneticians are agreed that \n\ and \l\ are often syllabic in English although some use no symbol that indicates syllabicity. Some transcribers of pronunciations in dictionaries who use a special symbol for syllabicity with \n\ and \l\ find no occasion to attach the symbol to \m\ or \ŋ\, but this does not necessarily mean that they deny the existence of syllabic \m\ and \ŋ\. There is variation in the interpretation and transcription of the sound of the *er* in the three-syllabled pronunciation of *coppery* and in *r*-keepers' pronunciation of *copper*, some phoneticians regarding these sounds as a syllabic \r\.

Apparently there are many, especially among writers of textbooks on phonics and teachers in the elementary schools, who are of the opinion that there can be no syllable without a vowel. Every dictionary in line of succession from, and including, Noah Webster's original dictionary of 1828 shows vowelless syllables. For instance, the unabridged Webster dictionaries that preceded this pronounce the word *kitten* as follows:

1828	kit'n
1847	kit'tn
1864	kīt'tn
1890	kīt't'n
1909	kĭt''n
1934	kĭt''n

As a realistic representation of what takes place in articulation when a syllabic consonant is pronounced, the representation employed by Noah Webster in 1828 is difficult to improve: the consonant alone is used without the addition of any symbol for syllabicity. Something additional must be used when the syllabic consonant is not final in a sequence and is followed by a vowel; thus \kitnish\ does not adequately represent a three-syllabled pronunciation of *kittenish*, but its inadequacy can be rectified by inserting a hyphen after the syllabic consonant, thus: \kitn-ish\). Our latest school dictionaries transcribe *kitten* as \'kit-n\, and with the abolition of unnecessary marks of syllable division in this book our transcription could have been \'kitn\. However, this book departs from this method of transcribing syllabic consonants for two reasons:

(1) In some environments some monosyllabic particles (for example, *and*) often have no vowel sound but have a syllabic consonant as their first or only sound. Although in the transcription of words of more than one syllable a special symbol for syllabicity is not essential, without one the indication of a syllabic consonant in a monosyllable is a matter of some difficulty, and in this book the user has a right to expect a minute listing of all the variants commonly heard for such monosyllabic particles as *and*.

(2) In our school dictionaries, a syllabic consonant followed in the same word by a vowel is indicated as syllabic by the printing of a hyphen (in these books a mark of syllable division) after the consonant, as in \'fas-n-ˌāt\ for *fascinate* and \ˌfas-n-'āsh-n\ for *fascination*. We have found that these transcriptions have been often understood to show *fascinate* as having two syllables only or *fascination* three syllables only, so we attempt to forestall misinterpretations such

as these by using a small superior schwa before the syllabic consonant.

Some transcribers symbolize a syllabic consonant by a full-size \ə\ followed by the symbol for the consonant, for example, the sound that follows the second consonant of *wooden* being transcribed \ənˌ\. Either or both of two lines of reasoning seem to motivate this procedure:

(1) There are speakers who have a vowel between the \d\ and \n\ of words like *wooden*. Even those who rarely or never have the vowel-plus-\n\ pronunciation would not apprehend that pronunciation as anything but the word *wooden*. There are few if any speakers who consistently have \d\ plus syllabic \n\ in one kind of context and have \d\ plus \ə\ plus \n\ in another context, and therefore the two pronunciations are seldom in contrast. Why then go to the trouble of having an additional method of symbolization for a syllabic consonant?

(2) The pronunciation without any vowel in the second syllable of *wooden* is the usual one, but a speaker's ingrained pronunciation habits can be depended upon to make him pronounce a syllabic consonant in the right places even though the transcription shows \ə\ before the consonant.

Against these arguments several counter arguments can be posed:

In the pronunciation heard, with few exceptions, for a word like *wooden* from speakers who are communicating with friends and are not trying to impress, there is no vowel in the syllable that contains the \n\. Some speakers do insert the vowel \ə\ before the consonant especially when they have a large audience containing hearers who may expect a more formal kind of pronunciation than the speaker ordinarily uses. That there are others in any such audience, however, who do not expect the speaker to alter his normal style of speech to this extent must be the experience of many or most who have done a great deal of radio or television listening in the company of others. When a television news broadcaster pronounces *threaten* with a vowel in the second syllable, a listener, although ignorant of phonetics, must be instantly aware that the pronunciation differs from what years of hearing English spoken have shown to be the usual pronunciation of *threaten*. Most speakers of English who pronounce a vowel in the second syllable of *wooden* or *threaten* probably do so because the spelling contains a vowel letter before the *n*. These speakers make a literal-minded interpretation of the presence of the written vowel, and do not see that they have introduced a vowel sound unnaturally. They can point to transcriptions that represent the same succession of symbols — \tən\ — the initial sounds of *tonight* and the final sounds of *threaten*. The utterances *lye denotes* and *Leyden oats* differ in that the first would ordinarily be pronounced with a vowel between the \d\ and the \n\ (with American speakers this vowel would often or usually be \ə\) whereas the second would ordinarily not have a vowel between the \d\ and the \n\. Some linguists would assert that there would be a difference of juncture between these two items whether there is or is not a vowel \ə\ in the second syllable of the second item — that in spite of identity of sounds and stresses and intonation there is something in the way these otherwise identical items are uttered that makes it clear to a hearer that the word boundaries are not the same. However, as readers know who are familiar with our vocabulary pronunciations or who have read the section on *juncture* in this "Guide", it is our view that often it is impossible to identify word boundaries phonetically. The difference between *lye denotes* consistently pronounced with \ən\ after the \d\ and *Leyden oats* consistently pronounced with a syllabic \n\ after the \d\ is the only one consistently made. Such a consistently made difference is phonemic.

Transcribers who use the symbol \ə\ in the second syllable of words like *wooden* will apparently be in difficulty if they decide to record certain widespread pronunciations that all of them seem to have thus far avoided — the pronunciation of *seven*, for instance, in which the second consonant is \b\ rather than \v\ and the last consonant is \m\ rather than \n\. The consultant who interprets a transcription like \'thretən\ literally and pronounces the word with a vowel in the last syllable will be saying something that may be heard from numerous other speakers but the consultant who interprets a transcription like \'sebəm\ in the same way would be using a pronunciation almost without precedent.

There can be no better way of indicating no vowel between two consonants than to print them with nothing between them — e.g., to transcribe \'sebm\ (one pronunciation of *seven*) and \'käntn-ənt\ (one pronunciation of *continent*), or to follow the long-established IPA practice of using a modifier underneath the symbol for the syllabic consonant, at least whenever the syllabic consonant is followed by an unstressed vowel in the same word. Some dictionary users, however, prefer some sort of symbol between the two consonants, and the raised symbol \ᵊ\ should provide an acceptable compromise between the extreme of no modifier at all and the extreme of a full-sized \ə\, which tends to encourage overpronunciation.

Transcribers of dictionary pronunciations who employ a special way of indicating that a consonant is syllabic treat \n\ and \l\ as syllabic in a high percentage of cases. Some dictionaries show no syllabic \m\ or \ŋ\ in any of their pronunciations, although the very best speakers from time to time use a syllabic \m\ and less often a syllabic \ŋ\. (On these, see the entries \ᵊm\ and \ᵊŋ\.) The phonetic entity that corresponds to the *er* of the spelling *differ* or to the *or* of the spelling *honor* in the speech of *r*-keepers, and often in the speech of *r*-droppers when a word beginning with a vowel sound follows without pause, is variously interpreted. Some phoneticians regard this entity as the vowel \ə\ pronounced with a raising or turning back (retroflexion) of the tip of the tongue and use for it the symbol \ə\ with a symbol for retroflexion attached. Other phoneticians regard the sound as a syllabic \r\ and use a transcription that parallels that for syllabic \n\ or \l\. Still others transcribe \ər\. Of this number some regard the item as two sounds, others are willing to grant its singleness but find the two-symbol transcription more practicable since it more closely parallels the orthographic spelling, does not require the additional specially made symbol that use of a single symbol might, and makes it possible to show both the *r*-keepers' and the *r*-droppers' pronunciation by merely parenthesizing or italicizing the r. Whereas the latest school dictionaries in the Merriam-Webster series transcribe the *er* of *wither* as a syllabic r — \'with-r\ — this dictionary transcribes the same word \'withə(r)\. In the school dictionaries only the pronunciation of *r*-keepers is shown and it seemed advisable to attempt to indicate syllable boundaries in pronunciations (*attempt* because the exact location of many syllable boundaries in speech is highly uncertain). If these had been the only considerations affecting the transcription of words like *wither*, any of the three mentioned methods of transcribing the final part of the word would have served equally well. But there was the further consideration that derivatives formed by the addition of a vowel or vowel-initial suffix to many such words have pronunciation variants one of which has one syllable less than the other, *withering* and *withery*, for example, being either three-syllabled or two-syllabled. Such variation occurs often, especially in the present participle of verbs. By treating the sound of the *er* in the three-syllabled pronunciation of *withery* as a syllabic consonant \r\ we can show the variation thus: \'with-r(-)ē\, which means \'with-r-ē, 'with-rē\ or \'with-rē, 'with-r-ē\, the parentheses indicating the alternative presence or absence of the phonetic item symbolized between them. For the present participle *withering*, following after *wither* transcribed \'with-r\ at the beginning of the main entry, the indication of this variation can even be reduced to \-r(-)ing\. If the transcription of *wither* had been given as \'with-ər\, a parentheses formula for the two variants of *withering* would have entailed either \'with-(-ə)r(-)ing\ or \'with-(ə-)ring\, the first clumsy with its two pairs of parentheses one of which encloses two characters instead of one, the second having two characters parenthesized instead of one and having one division changed from what it is in the form without a suffix. The alternative to a parentheses formula would have been one of the two fairly long ones \'with-ər-ing, 'with-ring\ or \-ər-ing, 'with-ring\. Omission of the first syllable from the second variant in the last formula would have been ambiguous and even if done would have yielded a formula that is still longer than the \-r(-)ing\ formula. Primarily because the \-r(-)ing\ formula for the present participle variation is the shortest one we were able to contrive for use in a transcription system in which syllable boundaries are indicated, \r\ is treated as being capable of being a syllabic consonant in the school dictionaries, in one of which the formula is extensively used.

The present book shows for well-known entries the pronunciation of both *r*-keepers and *r*-droppers and does not attempt to show boundaries for all syllables. Because of these two practices in this book we transcribe *wither* as \'withə(r)\ and *withering* as \'with(ə)riŋ\. This last is to be regarded as merely one of several possible ways of representing exactly the same two variant pronunciations that are represented by \'with-r(-)ing\ in our other dictionaries. We could achieve somewhat closer parallelism between the two systems by representing in this book the *r*-keepers' pronunciation of *wither* as \'withᵊr\ and the two variants of *withering* as \'with(ᵊ)riŋ\ (paralleling \'bət(ᵊ)niŋ\ for *buttoning*), but a transcription \'withᵊ(r)\ is impossible since \'withᵊ\ is impossible.

In this dictionary we use the same symbols for the *r*-keepers' pronunciation of the stressed *ur* in the first syllable of *murmur* and the unstressed *ur* in the second syllable of that word, \'mərmərˌ\. In the school dictionaries we do not, transcribing \'mərm-r\, for two reasons:

(1) Primarily, there might be strong opposition to showing a syllabic consonant in a stressed syllable, since the average dictionary user has never encountered a system that so employs a syllabic consonant.

(2) Although the sound of the stressed *ur* in *murmur* is a single sound, the sound of the *ir* in *firm* and the *ur* of *fur* is often a double sound when these monosyllables are in prepausal position, particularly if they are emphasized, and transcribing the *ir* of *firm*, the *ur* of *fur*, and the first *ur* of *murmur* as two sounds has phonetic justification. The vowel of *ray* is apt to be diphthongal and the vowel of the first syllable of *raking* is apt to be monophthongal in most American speech, but sound phonetic practice calls for regarding these variations as nonsignificant and using the same symbol or symbols in both situations.

We transcribe the *ir* of *firm* and *firmer* as if it were pronounced as two successive sounds. We are not certain that this is the only phonetic item answering to a vowel letter and an *r* in the spelling that is sometimes pronounced as a single sound. We often pronounce the *ar* of *army* so, and if we use a single symbol for the *ir* in *firm*(*er*) we ought also to use a single symbol for the *ar* of *army*. But to add symbols to a pronunciation alphabet unnecessarily seems unwise and useless. It is simpler and adequate to use a vowel symbol followed by \r\, with the understanding that the \r\ may represent either a second, independent sound or merely a modification of the preceding sound. Of the four consonants — \l\, \n\, \m\, \ng\ — that we treat as capable of being syllabic, the first three are shown as syllabic in the school dictionaries in many environments in which they are treated as \ə\ plus consonant in this book. The chief reason for this is the same as for treating the *er* of *wither* as a syllabic \r\: if we show the pronunciation of *hyphen* as \'hīf-n\ and of *rival* as \'rīv-l\, we can show the two variant pronunciations of the present participles by simply parenthesizing a single character in the brief formulas \-n(-)ing\ and \-l(-)ing\. When syllable divisions in transcriptions are dispensed with, as in this book, it is possible to treat the *al* of *rival* as vowel plus \l\, the double pronunciation of the present participle being shown by the simple parenthesizing of a single character \'rīv(ə)liŋ\.

If the reader will pronounce each of the following items with the consonant between the two vertical bars as a syllabic consonant and then as \ə\ plus consonant, there should be no doubt that the two pronunciations of each word are markedly different:

(1) \'kit|n|\ (*kitten*)
(2) \'red|n|\ (*redden*)
(3) \'kēp|m|\ (*keep 'em*)
(4) \'grab|m|\ (*grab 'em*)
(5) \ˌkap|m|ˈsȯsə(r)\ (*cup and saucer*)
(6) \'seb|m|\ (*seven*)
(7) \ˌlāk|ŋ|ˈkē\ (*lock and key*)
(8) \ˌeg|ŋ|ˈkap\ (*egg and cup*)

For items (1) and (2) a pronunciation \ənˌ\ instead of \ᵊnˌ\ is heard with some frequency especially in formal speech, but even in such speech it does not sound quite natural to many listeners. For items (3) and (4) both \ᵊmˌ\ and \əmˌ\ sound natural. For items (5) and (6) the \əmˌ\ pronunciation sounds utterly unnatural, as does the \əŋ\ pronunciation for items (7) and (8). For the phonetic entity between vertical bars in items (5)–(8) \ənˌ\ is a perfectly natural alternative (in item (6), when \v\ precedes) and if any experimenters believe that \əmˌ\ and \əŋˌ\ sound normal in these items they are probably pronouncing or hearing \ənˌ\ instead. In all eight items the first vertical bar is immediately preceded by a stop consonant that is homorganic with (i.e., that has the same basic articulation as) the consonant between the two. This book treats the nasal consonants \n\, \m\, and \ŋ\ as capable of being syllabic after such a homorganic consonant. If the preceding homorganic consonant is in turn preceded by a consonant, in many cases the first of the three consonants inhibits the syllabicity of the third. Thus *London* is nearly always \'ləndən\, although *fountain* is as often \'faůntᵊn\ as \'faůntən\.

The same criteria used for the possible syllabicity of the nasal consonants after homorganic stops point to the advisability of treating \l\ as capable of syllabicity after the homorganic stops \t\ and \d\ and also after the homorganic nasal \n\ (which is classifiable as a nasal stop), as in *metal*, *meddle*, and *final*. As with \n\, pronunciation of these words with \əl\ instead of \ᵊl\ is sometimes heard in formal speech. With most American speakers such pairs as *metal : medal* are quite identical in pronunciation, the consonant preceding the \l\ being a variety of \d\ (see the section on \d·\).

We have found it difficult to decide about the transcription of the group of words in which the consonant sound preceding \n\, \l\, or \m\ is a homorganic consonant other than a stop.*

*\ŋ\ is not involved here because it is the only velar consonant other than stops. Consonant successions like \ln\, \rn\, \rl\ in words like *sullen*, *barren*, *barrel* are not considered, for this reason: these successions can be pronounced monosyllabically, as in one pronunciation of *kiln*, in *barn*, and in one pronunciation of *Carl* (see section on *rl*), and the usual practice among phoneticians for these two-consonant successions capable of monosyllabic pronunciation (as successions like \tn\ and \bm\ are not) is to transcribe a vowel between them when they are pronounced as in *sullen*, *barren*, and *barrel*, just as \v\ and \d\ are \-vd\ in the monosyllable *lived* but \-vəd\ in the disyllable *livid*.

The following words illustrate this classification:

(1) \'bās|n|\ (*basin*)
(2) \'rēz|n|\ (*reason*)
(3) \'ōsh|n|\ (*ocean*)
(4) \'vizh|n|\ (*vision*)
(5) \'skəch|n|\ (*scutcheon*)
(6) \'pij|n|\ (*pigeon*)
(7) \'nāth|n|\ (*Nathan*)
(8) \'hē<u>th</u>|n|\ (*heathen*)

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(9) \'gris|l|\ (*gristle*)
(10) \'ēz|l|\ (*easel*)
(11) \'sōsh|l|\ (*social*)
(12) \'yüzh|l|\ (*usual*)
(13) \'sach|l|\ (*satchel*)
(14) \'aj|l|\ (*agile*)
(15) \'eth|l|\ (*ethyl*)
(16) \bə'kwē<u>th</u>|l|\ (*bequeathal*)

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(17) \'stəf|m|\ (*stuff 'em*)
(18) \,def|m|'āsh|n|\ (*defamation*)
(19) \'lēv|m|\ (*leave 'em*)
(20) \'sev|m|\ (*seven*)

The two chief kinds of data used in determining what our transcription of each of these types of word should be were (1) our records, accumulated over an extended period of listening, of our impression as to whether a consonant was syllabic or was preceded by a vowel \ə\ and (2) the impression arrived at after much pronouncing by ourselves such items (often containing made-up words or nonsensical names) as *May Sinnott: mace a knot: Maysa Nott: Mason Ott*, which could differ from one another only in the presence or absence of a vowel before the consonant being explored (items containing a pause were out of order). After repeated alternate attempts to pronounce \ən\ and then \ᵊn\ in the consonant successions in items (3)–(6), the successions all sound alike whether in our made-up test items there is a word boundary before the first member of the consonantal succession, after the second member, or between the two. Such an outcome determines an arbitrary choice of either \ən\ or \ᵊn\ for these words, and the equivalent of \ᵊn\ is used in the school dictionaries; in this book the syllable core of these words is represented, except for a few interjections, in all cases where the consonants \n\, \l\, \m\, and \ŋ\ are not involved, by a vowel symbol. Such representation also avoids transcribing the last part of *fission* as \-ᵊn\ and the first part of *another* as \ə'n-\, with their suggestion that *fission others* and *fish another's* do not sound alike.

Words of the type illustrated in (1) and (2) are transcribed with ᵊn because pairs like *Mason Ott* and *May Sinnott* seem distinct and because our records contain notations of pronunciations of words like *reason* with overpronunciations having \ən\ at the end. The difference between \zᵊn\ and \zən\, however, is by no means as easy to hear as the difference between \dᵊn\ and \dən\, and when an unstressed vowel precedes the \s\ or \z\ a clear distinction between \sən\ and \sᵊn\ seems impossible, *Jefferson Ott* and *Jeffersa Nott* and *Jeffer Sinnott* all sounding the same to us. Hence we transcribe \'gärsᵊn\ (*Garson*) but \'jefərsən\ (*Jefferson*).

Items (7) and (8) are more difficult, but a distinction can be heard between \thən\ and \thᵊn\ and between \<u>th</u>ən\ and \<u>th</u>ᵊn\; \ən\ is regular when a vowel follows the \n\ without pause, being heard in *unearth a nape, unearth an ape, Bertha Nape*, and *earthen ape;* and either \ən\ or \ᵊn\ is apt to occur when a consonant or a pause follows the \n\, \ən\ and \ᵊn\ in such position being in free variation. We have therefore shown \ən\ after \th\ and \<u>th</u>\, to the exclusion of \ᵊn\.

To make \əl\ and \ᵊl\ in items (9)–(16) sound distinct and like normal English is also difficult, and we accordingly transcribe \əl\ after the consonants listed there. A number of transcribers show a syllabic \l\ in words like *gristle* and *dazzle*, but this may be primarily because of the analogy of the orthography, in which there is no vowel letter immediately before the *l*.

After \v\ in items (19) and (20) \ᵊm\ and \əm\ are possible and are quite distinct: \'sevəm\ for *seven* would sound strange to probably all educated persons whose native language is English whereas \'sevᵊm\ sounds quite natural to nearly all and is a part-time pronunciation of many, most of whom are entirely unaware that they are hearing or pronouncing an \m\ at the end of the word, are unwilling to believe that any educated speaker so pronounces, and actually denounce the pronunciation as worthy only of the most illiterate.

The syllabic \m\ of \vᵊm\ has an articulation different from that of most \m\'s in English, being formed not with the lips but with the lower lip and the upper front teeth, by assimilation to the \v\. The same kind of \m\ is heard in *nymph* and *symphony*. Its lip-teeth articulation is an almost inevitable result of its environment and in most transcription requires no special symbol. \vᵊm\, however, has a very strong tendency to become \bᵊm\ which is somewhat easier to utter and has the usual two-lip variety of \m\.

Certain common speech items having *v* and *m* in the orthography may have any of the three variants \vəm\, \vᵊm\, \bᵊm\, as *government, leave 'em* (these three pronunciations for *government* are not limited to *r*-droppers). Possibly even an uncommon item like *Novum Organum* would be heard with all three. It seems likely that an item like *Neva Martin*, in which what precedes the letter *M* is a word that in isolation is pronounced with a final vowel, would usually have only the variant \vəm\, although it might be generalizing too much to rule out \vᵊm\ and \bᵊm\ altogether. For all *v . . . m* items a pronunciation \bəm\ does not sound natural.

A number of *v . . . n* items have any of the three variants \vən\, \vᵊm\, \bᵊm\, as *seven, eleven, davenport*. For these, either \vəm\ or \bəm\ does not sound natural. *b . . . m* items like *rob 'em* are either \bᵊm\ or \bəm\. For these, \vᵊm\ or \vəm\ would not sound natural.

Items of the type illustrated in (17) and (18) — *stuff 'em, defamation* — do not offer as many complications as do those just discussed. The \f\ does not tend to become \p\, as \v\ does to become \b\, and the \m\ does not tend, to an extent at least that would appear to require notice in transcriptions in this dictionary, to appear in words in which the corresponding orthograpic item is *n*, as *hyphen*. The variants \fəm\ and \fᵊm\ both occur freely for items like *stuff 'em* and *sophomore* (the last also has a two-syllable variant) but \fᵊm\ would probably be a pretty rare variant in an item like *Josepha Moore*.

In words exemplified in the following list, there is a syllable core between an \l\, \n\, or \m\ and the next preceding consonant, which is not homorganic (successions in which a nasal is preceded by a nasal are discussed later; no words in which unstressed \əŋ\ is a possibility are shown because such a succession probably does not occur in normal English, and \ᵊŋ\ occurs only as an occasional variant):

(1) *triple*	(9) *ribbon*	(17) *ligament*
(2) *babble*	(10) *weaken*	(18) *blossom*
(3) *fickle*	(11) *wagon*	(19) *chasm*
(4) *struggle*	(12) *stiffen*	(20) *Gotham*
(5) *baffle*	(13) *seven*	(21) *rhythm*
(6) *bevel*		(22) *Beecham*
(7) *camel*	(14) *bottom*	(23) *Bridgham*
	(15) *madam*	(24) *Gresham*
(8) *happen*	(16) *oakum*	

Although words of the type *triple* and *babble*, and of the type *chasm* and *rhythm*, have been shown as having syllabic \l\ or syllabic \m\ in many books containing transcriptions, an \əl\, \ən\, or \əm\ in these words distinct from an \ᵊl\, \ᵊn\, or \ᵊm\ is undetectable, and we accordingly transcribe all these words with \əl\, \ən\, \əm\. Some of these words having an *n* in the spelling have pronunciation variants in which, by assimilation to the preceding consonant, the \n\ becomes \m\ (homorganic with preceding \v\, \p\, or \b\) or \ŋ\ (homorganic with preceding \k\ or \g\). In such variants the \m\ or \ŋ\ is syllabic and is transcribed \ᵊm\ or \ᵊŋ\. Such variants are shown for common words (as *happen* and *seven*), but for other words they are to be understood as occasional pronunciations largely limited to extremely rapid speech or to predisposing environments. (Thus, \-gᵊŋ\ would be less frequent for *dragon* immediately before a pause than for *dragon* in *dragon claw*, an environment in which the nasal is not merely preceded but also followed by a consonant having the same place of articulation as \ŋ\).

It seems likely that some who transcribe words like *triple, fickle, chasm*, and *prism* with a syllabic consonant \l\ or \m\ do so in continuance of a tradition that originated in a day when transcribers stood more in awe of spelling than the more enlightened do today. Transcriptions of *rifle* and *supple* that do not parallel those of *rival, opal*, and *oval*, and transcriptions of *chasm* and *prism* that do not parallel those of *blossom* and *gruesome* are suspect. There are of course passages of poetry in which the pronunciation of an *-sm* word as \-zəm\ would roughen the meter — a phrase like "a chasm of granite rock" in a line requiring iambics. But what is required in such a passage is not the use of \ᵊm\ instead of \əm\ but the use of a pronunciation in which the \z\ and the \m\ stand to each other in the same relationship as in the word *jazzman*. Such a pronunciation is easy enough to make clear by the use of spaces in the transcription: \ə kaz məv granət räk\. Any attempt at the entry *chasm* to transcribe such a pronunciation of the *sm* would probably elude even most of the phonetically sophisticated, unless an explanation were given. Some might say that such a pronunciation is merely an example of poetic license and as deserving of ready dismissal as the pronunciation \<u>th</u>\ required for the definite article in "and dashed th' ambitious hopes" or the pronunciation required for *loathed* in "the loathèd hut they left behind". Such elision of a vowel between certain consonants and a following word-final \m\ that precedes an unstressed vowel occurs in prose utterance as well (the more rapid the utterance, the more likely its occurrence) and it also occurs before word-final \l\, \n\, and even \ŋ\, despite the fact that its occurrence before \ŋ\ would require that \ŋ\ be regarded as preceding a vowel in the same syllable, something that \ŋ\ is supposed never to do in normal English. Thus such pronunciations as the following are heard frequently:

\ə mit nə(v) wůl\ (*a mitten of wool*)
\tə sēz nə rōst\ (*to season a roast*)
\ə kak lə(v) gēs\ (*a cackle of geese*)
\<u>th</u>ə pē plə(v) rōm\ (*the people of Rome*)
\<u>th</u>ə {sev nə(v) / sev mə(v) / seb mə(v)} kləbz\ (*the seven of clubs*)
\<u>th</u>ē ənthüzēaz mə vòl\ (*the enthusiasm of all*)
\<u>th</u>ə rith mə velēəts līn\ (*the rhythm of Eliot's line*)
\ət wōn(t) hap {nəgen / məgen}\ (*it won't happen again*)
\ə wag ŋə dā\ (*a wagon a day*)
\bak ŋəp <u>th</u>ə kär\ (*backing up the car*)

Except for an occasional entry word (as ²*couple*) that has prevocalic occurrence in a frequently pronounced phrase, such variants are not shown. Such information is more likely to be sought in a discussion of phonetics than at individual entries in a dictionary, and constant repetition of a formula adequate to make this difficult-to-transcribe variation clear is felt to be unjustified.

The preceding remarks have touched on the pronunciation of a word like *chasm* in prevocalic position. Also to be found in poetry are such passages as "the chasm 'twixt rock and rock" (Browning), with *chasm* preconsonantal and in a position where optimally smooth meter requires a monosyllable. Uttering *chasm* here in a way that would be normal in any prose passage produces a very jarring rhythm.

Transcriptions of *chasm* that have appeared in some of our earlier dictionaries are (kăzm) and (kăz'm). (kăz'm) parallels the transcription of words like *dazzle* and *button* in having an apostrophe (symbol indicating a following consonant as syllabic) before the final consonant but differs from them in having no stress mark before the apostrophe (in our earlier dictionaries a stress mark following any syllable except the last indicated not merely stress but also a syllable boundary). The transcribers of both (kăzm) and (kăz'm) may have been influenced by an awareness of the monosyllabicity desirable for *chasm* in some poetic passages and may have intended these transcriptions to represent either a disyllabic or a monosyllabic pronunciation. The orthography may have caused them not to realize that the variations occurring for *chasm* are paralleled in words like *couple* and *mitten* (which have a vowel letter either after or immediately before the last consonant whereas *chasm* has such a letter in neither position). The briefest possible transcription for such variation is \'kaz(ə)m\, \'kəp(ə)l\, \'mit(ᵊ)n\, although the intent of such a transcription would probably be lost on most dictionary users.

Many or most *r*-droppers have syllabic consonants not only in words of the type *cotton* and *curtain* (in which the orthography has a vowel letter or vowel letters between the two consonants involved) but also in words of the type *modern* \-dᵊn\, *pattern* \-tᵊn\, *lantern* \-ntᵊn\, *international* \ˌintᵊn-\, *utterly* \'ədᵊlē\, and *government* \'gəvᵊmənt, 'gəbᵊmənt\ (in which there is a vowel letter and an *r* between the two consonant letters in the orthography). The two pronunciations just shown for *government* occur frequently in the speech of *r*-keepers as well. Although it has been claimed or implied in transcriptional practice that there are *r*-droppers who consistently keep the members of such a pair as *Patton: pattern* distinct in their pronunciation, making the first \'patᵊn\ and the second \'padᵊən\ or \'patən\, there can be no doubt that pronunciations such as \'patᵊn\ for *pattern* are common in *r*-dropping speech in both the U.S. and Great Britain.

Between some successions of two sounds, the minimum transition in English is a non-syllable-forming one: for example, the transition from \ī\ to \n\ in *brine*, from \r\ to \n\ in *r*-keepers' *barn*, from \g\ to \d\ in *drugged*, from \l\ to \n\ in one pronunciation of *kiln*, all monosyllabic words. Between other successions of two sounds (the successions discussed in some detail in the preceding paragraphs), the minimum transition is a syllable-forming one: for example, the transition from \d\ to \n\ in *hidden*, from second \p\ to \l\ in *people*, from \z\ to \m\ in *chasm*, from \k\ to \r\ in *acre**. When both a minimum and a more-than-minimum transition can be heard, a vowel is present in the more-than-minimum transition and a vowel symbol should be shown in the transcription. Thus *Bryan* is \'brīən\ not \'brīᵊn\ (compare monosyllabic \'brīn\ *brine*), *baron* is \'barən\ not \'barᵊn\ (compare monosyllabic \'bärn\ *barn*), *rugged* is \'rəgəd\ or \'rəgid\ not \'rəgᵊd\ (compare monosyllabic \'drəgd\ *drugged*). Successions incapable of less than disyllabic transition offer the complications that some are clearly capable of both a minimum disyllabic transition and a more-than-minimum disyllabic transition (\d\ and \n\ for instance, as in *hidden*) whereas others are not. Some phoneticians, feeling it unnecessary to take cognizance of such

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*In some other languages, as French, \l\, \m\, and \r\ are in such position pronounced in such a way as to make possible a monosyllabic transition between them and a preceding consonant of the type illustrated. The qualification should also be added that we are speaking of successions of sounds in which the second is in prepausal position: since the desideratum in these considerations is to see what happens to a succession when an attempt is made to attach it to a single vowel, to introduce a word like *jitney*, in which the members of the succession are susceptible to distribution between a preceding and a following vowel, is to introduce a different criterion.

transitional variation, transcribe alike all transitions that are disyllabic, either treating the second consonant of all such successions as having a vowel before it or as being syllabic. Transcribers who record both types of transition do not always agree to which classification a given succession belongs. Those who wish to distinguish them should use \ᵊ\ between consonant symbols for the minimum transition and \ə\ for the more-than-minimum — for example, \'hidᵊn\ for the minimum, \'hidən\ for the more-than-minimum, in *hidden*.

For words like *linen*, *allyl*, *minimum*, and *goaded*, in which the two sounds of the succession are identical consonants, the transcription is with a vowel (\ə\ or in many cases either \ə\ or \i\) rather than \ᵊ\, the transition being more-than-minimum. The minimum transition for such a consonant pair is that heard in a word like *meanness*, where the transition from \n\ to \n\ consists of a mere holding or prolongation of the articulation of the \n\ that is also regardable as a doubling of the consonant and is usually transcribed by writing the symbol twice. Citing *meanness* (a word with a vowel both preceding and following the consonant pair) violates the criteria announced earlier as a basis for this particular part of our discussion, but it is only in such words that this type of transition ordinarily occurs in English. In some languages, however, it occurs within the bounds of a single syllable as a regular phenomenon, and is occasionally used in English for effect. Thus Carl Sandburg pronounces *Lincoln* \'liŋŋkən\ in reading from his works.

Although there are those who use transcriptions of the type \'kämᵊn\ *common* and \'venᵊm\ *venom* (just as there are those who use transcriptions of the type \'brīᵊn\ *Bryan* and \'melᵊn\ *melon*), such transcriptions are out of line with the criteria we have used in that they employ the symbol of syllabicity for a more-than-minimum transition. The minimum transition for two different nasals is one in which the mouth closure for the second is simultaneous with a part or all of the closure for the first. Presumably only the articulation that is nearest the breath stream is acoustically identifiable, the outer one being blocked off by the inner one from forming any part of the resonance chamber. Such transitions do not occur in normal English nor in any of the languages with whose phonetics we have any firsthand acquaintance but they are quite easy to make. Mischa Elman once pronounced his surname over the radio as \'elm\ plus a nasal \n\ whose articulation began during the closure for \m\ and was held until the pause that follows the surname, as was also apparently the closure for the \m\. Whether this pronunciation should be considered disyllabic or monosyllabic is something easily argued.

\ᵊ (following \l\, \m\, \r\; for ᵊ preceding \l\, \n\, \m\, \ŋ\, see the sections \ᵊl\, \ᵊn\, \ᵊm\, \ᵊŋ\) in some foreign languages, of which French is the best known, two consonants the second of which is \l\, \m\, or \r\ can occur at the end of a word without any vowel between them. However, whereas in English the second member of the pair is voiced and the pair is disyllabic, in French the second member of the pair is voiceless (even when the first member is voiced) and the pair is monosyllabic. We indicate such a pronunciation of a pair of consonants by placing the symbol ᵊ after rather than before the second member. Examples from French of words for which such a pronunciation is one variant:

couple \küplᵊ\ *titre* \tētrᵊ\
table \tâblᵊ\ *mordre* \mȯrdrᵊ\
prisme \prēsmᵊ, -ēzmᵊ\

In French such words may have any of four pronunciation variants, representable in our system as follows:

table \tâbl(ᵊ), -b(lə)\

The four variants shown are

1. \tâblᵊ\
2. \tâbl\
3. \tâblə\
4. \tâb\

In French prose, 1 occurs before a pause, as does 4 chiefly in rapid or informal speech; 2 occurs before a word that begins with a vowel sound and that follows without pause; 3 and 4 occur before a word that begins with a consonant sound and that follows without pause, 4 occurring esp. in rapid or informal speech and in set phrases such as *maître d'hôtel*. The meaning of a transcription like 2 will be misunderstood by many, who will interpret it as disyllabic. In the following examples, spaces are used to indicate where the syllable boundaries are usually regarded as being in French, in order to facilitate an understanding of our transcriptions. Examples: 1. *amour-propre* \à mür prȯprᵊ— *three syllables*\ 2. *la table est belle* \là tà ble bel —*four syllables*\ 3. *table de bois* \tà blə də bwä —*four syllables*\ 4. {*amour-propre* \à mür prȯpr— *three syllables*\ / *table de bois* \tâb də bwä — *three syllables*\}

\əi as in a pronunciation of *bird* that is widely used in greater New York City and in a strip of the deep South extending from North Carolina to Louisiana. This pronunciation is commonly represented by the letters *oi*, as in the spelling *boid* for *bird*, but the \ȯi\ suggested by this spelling is rarely or never the pronunciation actually used. In the South this pronunciation appears to be less regarded by educated speakers as one to be avoided than in the New York City area.

\əi\ does not occur as a variant of \ər\ and \ə̄\ in words having no sound after the \ər\ or \ə̄\, nor in formations based on such words — that is, \əi\ does not occur, in educated speech at least, in words like *spur*, *spurred*, *spurring*, *furry*. Nor does \əi\ occur in educated speech as a variant of \ər\ in words in which \ər\ is followed by a vowel, as *hurry*, *flourish*.

\ᵊl the usual sound of the *le* of *battle* and *muddle*, of the *al* of *vital*, of the *el* of *model* and *funnel*, of the *ile* of *futile*. The \ᵊ\ is a diacritic and \ᵊl\ is a single sound, not two, an \l\ sound that serves as the nearest thing to a vowel in its syllable. Especially on formal occasions and with speakers not fully sure of themselves the two sounds \əl\ do sometimes occur instead of \ᵊl\. The \əl\ variant is usually not shown. When a word ending in \t\, \d\, or \n\ precedes without pause, words shown as beginning \əl-\ (as *allow*, *alone*) may have \ᵊl-\ instead, as in *not alone*.

\ᵊm often heard for the words *'em* and *and* when \p\, \b\, or \v\ precedes, as in *stop 'em*, *grab 'em*, *save 'em*, *up and down*, *rub and buff*, *stove and poker*. A preceding \v\ may be assimilated to \b\, as in the third and sixth examples above; if the \v\ remains \v\, the \ᵊm\ articulation is lip-teeth rather than lip-lip. \vᵊm\ and \bᵊm\ are also often heard for the *ven* of words like *seven* and *eleven* and for the *vernm* of *government*. The \ᵊ\ is a diacritic and \ᵊm\ is a single sound, not two, an \m\ sound that serves as the nearest thing to a vowel in its syllable. The two sounds \əm\ are not heard as a variant for \ᵊm\ when the orthographic correlate is *n* (*government* is not an exception because the orthographic correlate there is *m* not *n*, the first \n\ being lost possibly through the dissimilatory influence of the second \n\). When a word ending in \p\, \b\, or \m\ precedes without pause, words shown in the vocabulary as beginning \əm-\ sometimes have \ᵊm-\ instead, as in *save ammonia*.

\ᵊn as the usual *an* of *Satan* and *en* of *wooden*. The \ᵊ\ is a diacritic and \ᵊn\ is a single sound, not two, an \n\ sound that serves as the nearest thing to a vowel in its syllable. Especially on formal occasions and with speakers not fully sure of themselves the two sounds \ən\ do sometimes occur instead of \ᵊn\. The \ən\ variant is usually not shown. When a word ending in \d\ or \t\ precedes without pause, words shown as beginning \ən-\, \ə̀n-\, or \in\ (as *announce*, *engage*) may have \ᵊn\ instead, as in *made announcements*, *can't engage*.

\ᵊŋ sometimes heard as a variant for vowel plus \n\ or \ŋ\ when \k\ or \g\ precedes and somewhat more often when \k\ or \g\ also follows, as in *chicken coop*, *breaking ground*, *dog and gun*. The \ᵊ\ is a diacritic and \ᵊŋ\ is a single sound, not two, an \ŋ\ sound that serves as the nearest thing to a vowel in its syllable. When a word ending in \k\ or \g\ precedes without pause, words shown as beginning \ə̀nk-\ or \ə̀ng-\ sometimes have \ᵊŋk\ or \ᵊŋg\ instead, as in *break engagements*, *big encouragement*.

\ər (see also the section on \ər·, ə·r\) when in a syllable bearing either of the stresses ˈ , and when word-final or followed by a consonant sound, \ər\ is the sound used by *r*-keepers for the *ir* of *stir*, the *ear* of *search*, or the *ir* of *circularity*. When the \ə\ of \ər\ is not preceded by a stress mark, \ər\ is the sound used by *r*-keepers for the *er* of *walker* and by both *r*-keepers and *r*-droppers for the *ar* of *arise*, the *er* of *veneration*, and the *er* of *bakery* when that word is pronounced in three syllables and not two.

Many transcribers regard what we transcribe as \ər\ as a single sound (stressed or unstressed) and use a single symbol instead of \r\ preceded by a vowel symbol. Such transcribers regard the articulation as a single one in which the body of the tongue is in the position for some such vowel as \ə\ or \ə̄\ at the same time that the tip is in substantially the position for the sound following the \n\ in *unroll*. Even if the pronunciation that we symbolize \ər\ is one sound, there appears to be no great objection to transcribing it as if the components of the articulation were successive rather than simultaneous, and such a transcription is now the usual practice of many linguists in this country. Such a practice makes it possible to show both the *r*-keepers' and the *r*-droppers' pronunciation of a word like *winner* by merely parenthesizing the \r\, thus: \'winə(r)\.* Furthermore, it is by no means sure that, if \ər\ is a single sound, it is the only such sound in English: *arc* may be just as much a two-sound word as *irk*.

\ər·, ə·r used in words in which \ə\ is stressed and a vowel immediately follows the \r\. The first of the two transcriptions is also used at the end of words, since any word is capable of being followed by a vowel-initial word.

\ər·\ with a vowel sound following is the same sound as that written without the centered dot when a consonant sound follows — that is, it is the sound used by *r*-keepers for the *ir* of *bird* or the *irre* of *stirred*. It is also the sound used by *r*-keepers for the *irr* of *stirring* (most U.S. *r*-droppers have the same sound in this word, a smaller number have \ə̄r\) and by *r*-keepers for the *ir* of *Sir Albert* (some U.S. *r*-droppers have the same sound, some say \sə̄'albət\, and fewer say \sə̄'ralbət\, the usual pronunciation in southern British speech, as is \ə̄r\ for *stirring*). \ər·\ is also the pronunciation used by most *r*-keepers for the *urr* of *hurry* and the *our* of *courage*, words that differ from the linguistic items *stirring* and *Sir Albert* in not being composed of two meaningful English units.

Most U.S. *r*-droppers, speakers of southern British, and *r*-keepers in some areas of the U.S. pronounce the *urr* of *hurry* and the *our* of *courage* in a way that we transcribe \ə·r\. Whatever it is that we represent by the \ə\and the \r\ is in the same syllable: the syllable division occurs after the \r\. But in the pronunciation that we represent \ə·r\ the \ə\and the \r\ seem very definitely to be distributed between successive syllables. Therefore, we have made the distinction between the two by a difference in the placement of the centered period, a syllable-boundary indicator. One of the most expected places for the occurrence of the \ə·r\ pronunciation is in the circus barker's spiel "Hurry! Hurry! Hurry!" where, it seems likely, \ə·r\ is used even by speakers who ordinarily have \ər·\ in such words. This sound may be produced by saying the first two sounds of *hum* without sounding the \m\ and then adding the first two sounds of *react*.

In transcriptions of uncommon words rhyming with *stir*, like *claqueur* \kla'kər(·)\, the parenthesized period means that the period is to be omitted when a consonant or a pause follows (as in \kla'kərz\ *claqueurs*) but is to be retained, without the parentheses, when a vowel sound follows without pause (as in \əkla'kər·ənthə-'balkənē\ *a claqueur in the balcony*). \-'kə·rən-\ for this last phrase would be a pronunciation that does not ordinarily occur in educated standard speech.

In words as common as *hurry* both the \ər·\ and the \ə·r\ variant are shown, in the expectation that it will be chiefly in the more frequent words that phonetic detail will be sought in this book. But for a word having as little currency among nonspecialists as *gurry* the transcription is shown simply as \'gərē\, since either of two likely interpretations placed on the \ər\ will be acceptable.

In words like *stirring*, *burry*, formed by adding an active vowel or vowel-initial suffix to words of the type *stir*, the \ə·r\ variant is not usually heard, although it appears to be an occasional, and the usual British, variant of the noun *furrier* and a rare variant of *furry* (and therefore of the comparative adjective *furrier*) in British speech. In words of the type *occurrence*, which are from, or which parallel words existing in, a foreign language, notably Latin, and which if formed in English were formed by using a suffix now relatively inactive in English, an \ə·r\ variant is quite regular with speakers who have \ə·r\ in *hurry*.

\əu̇ as in one pronunciation of *bulb* — see section on \l\.

\əw this succession of symbols followed by a vowel symbol (as in \'strenyəwəs\ for *strenuous*, \ˌsichə'wāshən\ for *situation*) occurs instead of the \u̇\ or \ō\ followed by a vowel that is employed by a number of transcribers. The starting point in the reasoning that led to a decision to use \əw\ was a very strong conviction that the members, or that the shorter member and a part of the longer member, of such pairs as the following are exact rhymes (some of the words and names below are made up and some of the combinations are nonsensical):

silhouette
Scylla wet
Genoese
Jenna Weeze
Manuella
Manya Weller
Halloween
Valhalla wean
willowy Ona
Willa Weona
habituate
bitch a wait
Venezuela
Venn is a weal (or *wale*)

Granting the homophony of the members of those pairs, without any attempt to explore the phonetics of the matter, we transcribe \əw\ for the following two reasons: (1) Transcribers have been unanimous, or nearly so, in using \ə\ and \w\ in transcriptions of items of the sort we have shown in each pair as the second member, but the same transcriber ordinarily uses \u̇\ when the spelling has *u* and \ō\ when the spelling has *o*. If homophony is granted, then it must be that transcribers are using two symbols (\u̇\ and \ō\) for what is really the same sound or succession of sounds. Such variation violates one of the most fundamental tenets of transcription. (2) If we decide to transcribe *silhouette* and

*Parenthesizing of \r\ after a vowel in a stressed syllable will in most cases not yield the *r*-droppers' pronunciation.

Scylla wet both \silůet\ or \silo͞et\ rather than \siləwet\, then providing variant transcriptions at both words of the type *Scylla* and words of the type *wet* that will take care of their pronunciation in isolation and their pronunciation in succession, with the *w*-initial word second, is a task so formidable as to be prohibitive. If we transcribe both *silhouette* and *Scylla wet* with \əw\, however, then the transcription for *Scylla* and for *wet* in isolation is also the transcription for them in succession in that order. Thus only at words of the type *follow* and *value* must variants be provided for isolation and succession differences where a variant in \-əw\ is provided to take care of the usual or a common pronunciation in items like *following, follow up, valuer, value alteration.*

\a as in *hat, gap, has-been, have-not;* some speakers have \a\ also in one, two, or all of the three words *hash, hang, ask*. Other speakers have in *hash* and *ask* a vowel that we symbolize \aa\ or \aaə\; they have the latter vowel also in *halve* and in the emphatic pronunciation of the verb *can*, words which may be distinct from the emphatic form of *have* and from the noun *can* ("container"), the latter two having \a\. Other speakers have in *hash, hang, ask* a vowel that we symbolize \ai\; they also have the latter vowel in *halve* and, if the word is in their vocabulary, probably also in *salvy*, words which if so pronounced are distinct in the vocabulary of most from the emphatic form of *have* and from *savvy*, the latter two usually having \a\. Still other speakers have in *ask* a vowel that we symbolize \ȧ\; they also usually have the latter vowel in one or more of the words *halve, heart, salvy*, words which then are distinct from the emphatic form of *have*, from *hat*, and from *savvy*, the latter three having \a\. See the sections on \aa(ə)\, \ai\, and \ȧ\.

The sound in the vowel of *hat* may vary according to the dialect, but our symbol for all varieties is \a\. To speakers who have \aa(ə)\ in their vocabulary the vowel used in *hat* in other dialects may sound to them like or much like their \aa(ə)\. The \a\ of speakers whose vocabulary includes both \a\ and \aa(ə)\ may sound to speakers of other dialects like or much like \ȧ\. The vowel of *hat* in Scottish dialect is a sound that has a quality like that often heard for the *ear* of *heart* in eastern New England or southern British speech or for the *o* of *hot* in most U.S. speech (that is, that has an \ȧ\ or \ä\ quality) but that is always very short. For the Scottish vowel, a symbol different from that for the standard vowel of *hat* is often employed in dictionaries. However, since the standard-English vowel of *hat* does not occur in the type of Scottish transcribed in this dictionary and it and the Scottish vowel of *hat* are not in contrast, there is no necessity for using a different symbol to transcribe the Scottish sound. The speaker of Scottish will use the sound natural to him in *hat* when he sees \a\ in a transcription, just as the American and the southern Englishman each interprets \o͞\ for the vowel of *toe* in his own way, although their vowels are usually markedly different.

\ā as the vowel of *day, fade, date, aorta*, when emphatic usually more diphthongal in British speech than in most American speech. When it is a diphthong, the second element is \i\ and the first element is either the vowel of *debt* or the vowel used in *day* when that vowel is a monophthong.

\ä as used in *cot* and *cod* by those who pronounce these words differently from *caught* and *cawed*. The quality of the vowel of *cot* and *cod* varies, in length and in quality. In southern British speech, it is consistently short but in the U.S. may be quite long, especially before a voiced consonant. The vowel of most southern Englishmen and of many eastern New Englanders is pronounced with the tongue higher and further back and with the lips more rounded than the vowel of the average American, to whom the others' vowel may sound more like that of his *caught* or *cawed*. Our symbol \ä\ is to be interpreted as covering all varieties of vowel used in the English-speaking world for the vowel of *cot* and *cod* by speakers who pronounce these words differently from *caught* and *cawed*. Although this vowel is more often spelled with *o* in English than with any other letter, we use \ä\ rather than \o\ or an *o*-based character in our transcription for this reason: We must be able to show that in the speech of most or many Americans the first two italicized items in each of the groups of three below are identical in sound and that the third item in each group consists of the same sounds in the same order but with the additional sound \r\ present immediately after the vowel under discussion:

*Fother*gill	*bock* beer
father	*Bach*
farther	*bark*
bomb	*mock*
balm	*mach*
barm	*mark*

The first two orthographies in each group show that either \a\ or \o\ with or without a diacritic would be a symbol with precedent in English orthography for the words without *r* in the spelling or \r\ in the pronunciation. For this last class of words, however, \a\ is a better symbol than \o\ because \o\ before an \r\ suggests the vowel of *cord* rather than of *card*.

When one transcribes, as sound transcriptional practice requires, on the principle of one symbol to a sound, it is impossible to have all transcriptions of a language as orthographically lawless as English look right. A vowel with an articulatory position as far forward as that of *fair* and *fare* is usually represented orthographically by *a* or a letter group containing *a* and has traditionally been represented in transcriptions by \a\ with a diacritic over it. On the other hand, a vowel with an articulatory position as far back as that of *all* and *saw* is often represented orthographically by *a* or a letter group containing *a* and is represented in some pronunciation systems by \a\ with a diacritic over it. The use of \a\ with a diacritic over it to represent a vowel with an in-between articulatory position should therefore occasion no surprise. In a phonetic alphabet widely used by American linguists today, the vowel of *cot* is \a\. In the alphabet of the International Phonetic Association, which is used by many transcribers of American speech, the symbol used for the vowel in this word is one that resembles a script or italic *a* or Greek alpha.

For any who may require in their transcribing a symbol for the unrounded vowel that occurs in *cot* and a symbol for the rounded vowel that occurs in the same word and is distinct from the vowel of *caught*, we suggest \ä\ for the unrounded vowel and \o\ for the rounded. It was common practice in dictionaries, and is still the practice in some dictionaries, to use symbols for four distinct vowels in the range from front \ȧ\ to back \ȯ\ — symbols equivalent to \ȧ\, \ä\, \o\, and \ȯ\ respectively. Although there may be dialects of English in which a distinction is consistently made between four classes of words on the basis of four vowels representable by \ȧ\, \ä\, \o\, and \ȯ\, we have no reason to believe that there are speakers enough who make such a distinction to justify its notice in our dictionary. Perhaps a knowledge that the usual or a frequent British vowel and the usual American vowel in *cot* are different accounts for some American transcribers' employing four symbols rather than three. The desideratum in the formulation of a phonetic alphabet, however, is not the provision of a one-character symbol for every minute shade of sound but the provision of the barest minimum necessary to represent the distinctions consistently made in the speech of any one speaker. For distinctions any finer than this, the phonetician may use modifiers. When the explanation is made that \ä\ is the vowel of *cot*, whatever the quality of that vowel may be; that any whose vowel (in *cart*, for example, in the speech of *r*-droppers) is consistently between that of *cot* and the further-forward and higher vowel of *cat* have a vowel that we symbolize \ȧ\; that any whose vowel (in *caught* or *quart*, for example) is consistently between that of *cot* and the further-back and higher vowel of *coat* have a vowel that we symbolize \ȯ\, we have provided symbols enough to transcribe all the vowel distinctions that most speakers make in this range.

Of the best-known dialects of English, none appears to have more than three vowels in this range, and some appear to have only two. Any who may have concluded from the presence in southern British of a rounded vowel in *cot* which is distinct from the unrounded vowel of *cart* and from the even more rounded vowel of *caught* that there are four vowels between \a\ and \o͞\ should observe that Daniel Jones and Henry Wyld transcribe only three. The number of such words that are phonetically distinct in southern British probably does not differ materially from the number that are distinct in the speech of U.S. *r*-keepers who do not level pairs like *cot* and *caught*. Such U.S. speakers make no distinction between such words as *Spaak* and *Spock* but southern British speakers make no distinction between such words as *Spaak* and *spark*. It seems likely that the mistaking of one word for another in this group is greater than average. If so, an explanation is to be sought not merely in the fact that some speakers have two vowels instead of the three of other speakers but also in the fact that with speakers who have the same number of vowels the distribution of the vowels is subject to much variation, as was just illustrated in the words *Spaak*, *Spock*, and *spark*. Ordinary words known in all dialects cause little difficulty, for the same reason that such identically pronounced words as *meet* and *meat* seldom cause difficulty: the context in nearly every case leaves the hearer in no doubt as to what word the speaker is using. But unknown or little-known words — surnames and the names of small geographical entities, for example — can sometimes cause perplexity.

In our transcriptions we have attempted to use only the minimum number of symbols required to show the distinctions that occur in any one major dialect of English. Since the discussion that follows involves the comparative phonetics of a group of words showing a high degree of variation and overlapping in some of the major dialects of English, we will use symbolizations that do not occur in the dictionary. Those that do we will enclose in lightface square brackets rather than in our usual reverse slant lines. [ȧ] represents a vowel that has a tongue position somewhat lower and further back than \a\; it is the vowel usually heard in *part* and usually or often heard in *pass* in eastern New England speech. [ä] is the vowel that the majority of Americans use in *pot*. [o] is the vowel that is used in southern British speech in *pot*. It differs from the usual American vowel in the same word in being pronounced with the lips rounded and often or usually in having a tongue position slightly higher and further back. [ȯ] is the vowel used in the first syllable of *order* and in *sawed* by speakers with whom *sawed* and *sod* are distinct. Doubling a vowel symbol indicates a lengthening of the sound it represents; [oo] indicates a vowel of the same quality as [o] but longer; [oo] does not represent the vowel of *hoot* or *hook*.

Such pairs as *order : ardor, born : barn*, in which a consonant sound immediately follows whatever pronunciation is given the *or* or *ar*, are no more than sporadically leveled in any well-known dialect. There appears to be some leveling in the Southern Mountain dialect and perhaps in Utah. In a section of southern Illinois the first part of the word *Borneo* is pronounced exactly like *barn*. Speakers of the dialects of the Atlantic and Gulf coasts and of Texas, from New York City to El Paso, in which [o] occurs with some frequency in the first syllable of *ardor* and in *barn*, with or without an \r\ following the vowel, are apt to be misunderstood as pronouncing *order* and *born* instead by the speakers of dialects in which *ardor* and *barn* have [ä] or [ȧ]; but the percentage of misunderstandings appears to be no higher when both speaker and listener have the same distinction than in the case of other vowel pairs equally close in articulation.

With the majority of American speakers, such pairs as *Mahler : Moller, father : Fother*gill, *Brahms : Brom's, khaki : cocky* (when the *a* of *khaki* is not \a\), and *Bach's : box* (when the *ch* of *Bach's* is not \k̲\) are exact rhymes. When they are, the vowel of both is usually [ä], but in Southern Mountain speech may be [o]. These two vowels are represented by \ä\ in our dictionary transcriptions.

In some dialects of English (especially those in which *r*-dropping occurs, as eastern New England, southern Coastal, southern British, and New York City), the vowels of such pairs are usually or often not homophonous. The stressed vowel of *Mahler* may be [ȧ] (as in eastern New England and southern British), a vowel articulated further forward in the mouth than the stressed vowel of *Moller*, lacking the rounding that usually or often accompanies the vowel of *Moller*, and in southern British at least usually longer than that vowel. The vowel of *Mahler* may be [ää] or [äə] (as in southern Coastal and New York City), a vowel having the same quality at the beginning as the vowel of *Moller* but appreciably longer because of prolongation or because of the presence of a slight [ə] off-glide at the end. The vowel of *Mahler* may be [oo] (as also in southern Coastal and New York City), a vowel with the quality of [o], the rounded vowel heard in southern British *not*, but longer. All of these three vowels or vowel characteristics that make the stressed vowel of *Mahler* distinct from the stressed vowel of *Moller* are symbolized in the dictionary pronunciations by \ȧ\. If only southern Coastal and New York City speech were being transcribed, the vowel of *Mahler*, when it differs from that of *Moller*, could very well be transcribed as \ää\. This could be made to provide for the [oo] variant as well by an explanation that lengthened \ä\ is often accompanied by rounding. That *Mahler* and *Moller* are sometimes homophonous and sometimes not could be shown by the transcriptions \'mä(ä)lə(r)\ and \'mälə(r)\ respectively. Speakers of dialects in which the stressed vowel of *Mahler* is [oo] may easily be misunderstood by hearers not familiar with the dialect as saying *mauler* instead of *Mahler*. Whether within such dialects the stressed vowels of *Mahler, mauler*, and *Morley* are ever completely leveled is doubtful. With southern speakers who have [oo] in *Mahler*, the stressed vowel of *mauler* (but not, it appears, that of *Morley*) is often a diphthong [ȯů], acoustically quite distinct from [oo].

In *r*-keeping speech pairs like *Spaak : spark* are distinct because one member contains an \r\ and the other does not. In *r*-dropping speech such pairs usually are homophones, but sometimes in such speech *Spaak* goes with *Spock* rather than with *spark*, as it does in most *r*-keeping speech. Our symbol for the vowel of *Spaak* when it is homophonous with that of *Spock* is \ä\; for the vowel of *Spaak* when it is not homophonous with that of *Spock*, \ȧ\.

In *r*-keeping speech pairs like *spark : Spock, Farley : folly, harmony : hominy* are distinct because one member contains an \r\ and the other does not. In some such dialects (as Middle Atlantic and the *r*-keeping speech of Texas), the vowel of *spark* is apt to be rounded (['spork]) whereas the vowel of *Spock* is apt to be unrounded (['späk)]), but we can transcribe \'spärk\ and \'späk\ and explain that \ä\ followed by \r\ may be rounded. Such an explanation holds both for words like *spark*, in which a consonant follows the \r\, and for words like *moral* and *horrid*, in which a vowel follows the \r\.

In some *r*-dropping dialects (as eastern New England and southern British) a pretty consistent qualitative distinction is made between the vowels of *spark* and *Spock*, and often in addition a quantitative or durational distinction as well. If the quantitative difference is lacking, the qualitative one sets the words apart. (Incidentally, the eastern New England vowel of *spark* is usually markedly different in quality from the south-

ern British vowel in the same word, \ȧ\ standing in the former for a vowel much closer to that of *cat* and \ȧ\ being in the latter a vowel much the same in quality, and often in quantity also, as the vowel that most Americans have in *cot*.) Although some American phoneticians have observed that the southern British vowel in *cot* does not always have the rounding that the writings and transcriptions of British phoneticians seem to claim for it, the extent of the leveling of *spark* and *Spock* is beyond much question not as great as in the dialects next discussed.

With *r*-dropping speakers (as in the coastal Southern states and in New York City) who never have more than a quantitative difference between the vowels of *spark* and *Spock*, this difference of duration frequently breaks down, with the resultant homophony of such pairs. Some who have written on this type of leveling attribute it to a lengthening of the [ä] of the *r*-less member of the pair, chiefly before voiced consonants, the tendency to lengthening being greater before these than before voiceless consonants. But the leveling may be due also to a shortening of the vowel of *spark*. The tendency of a vowel to be short in duration increases with its distance from the last syllable of a word, and such words at least as *harmony* and *hominy*, in which the [ä] is in the third syllable from the end, both sometimes have a fairly short [ä] and are homophonous. Such leveling is not indicated in our transcription. A variant \ä\ is to be understood as occurring with varying frequency for all words transcribed with the variants \är\ and \ȧ\ (in uncommon words, with \är\ only) before a consonant. Our omission of the third variant does not mean that we regard the variant as substandard but rather reflects the uncertainty that exists as to the extent of the variation.

In some areas (as western Pennsylvania, eastern New England, and parts of the Far West) the members of such pairs as *cod : cawed, rot : wrought* may have the same vowel, or may undergo a range of variation from [ä] through [o] to [ȯ]. In *r*-dropping dialects, as that of eastern New England, such leveling may extend not merely to *cod* and *cawed* but to *cord* as well. *Card* and *cord* probably are not leveled to any great extent, although, as pointed out earlier, the vowel of *card* has some degree of rounding in some dialects. For a transcription of the speech of *r*-keepers who level *cod : cawed*, but not *card : cawed*, two symbols (as \ä\ and \ȯ\) are necessary in the range between \a\ and \ō\ to take care of the *card : cawed* distinction. For a transcription of the speech of *r*-droppers who level *cod : cawed : cord*, two symbols (as \ȧ\ and \ä\ or \ȧ\ and \o\ or \ȧ\ and \ȯ\) are necessary in the range between \a\ and \ō\ to take care of the distinction between *card* and *cod : cawed : cord*. For any speakers who may level *card : cord* as well as *cod : cawed*, only one symbol (\ȧ\ or \ä\ or \o\ or \ȯ\) is necessary in the range between \a\ and \ō\.

The leveling of words like *cod* and of words like *cawed* and *cord* is not transcribed after the entry words. We have refrained from transcribing it in order to simplify the transcriptions. Users of the pronunciations are to understand that the symbol \ȯ\ and the symbol \ä\, when the latter corresponds to the letter *o* in the spelling (as in *cod*), or corresponds to the letter *a* in the spelling and is preceded by the sound \w\ or \y\ and is not followed by the sound \r\ plus a consonant (as in *watch, yacht, warrant* but not in *yarn*), are merely, as far as certain dialects are concerned, two symbols for the same sound.

A further complication is the fact that the first vowel of *utter* in southern British speech is usually more like the usual American [ä] in *otter* than the usual American first vowel in *utter*, so that in an ambiguous context an Englishman's *utter* is apt to be heard by an American as *otter*.

\ȧ as any of several phonetically different vowel sounds that in the speech of *r*-droppers make *card* distinct from *cad* on the one hand and from *cod* on the other, or from *cod* on the one hand and from *cawed* on the other.

In the speech typical of eastern New England and southern England, the vowel transcribed \ȧ\ at *card* is articulatorily between the \a\ of *cad* and the \ä\ of *cod*. The New England vowel is closer to the vowel of *cad* than is the British vowel. In both eastern New England and southern British speech \ȧ\ is usual or frequent in a small group of words that have come to be known as the *ask* words. In all but a few words of this group, the vowel, orthographically *a* or *au*, is followed by one of the voiceless fricatives \f\, \s\, \th\, or by \m\ or \n\ plus a consonant. They are more often pronounced by American speakers with \a\ or (with a few exceptions, at least for \ai\) \aa(ə)\ or \ai\.

In one kind of *r*-dropping speech heard in the southeastern U.S. and in New York City, the vowel transcribed \ȧ\ at *card* is the same in quality as the vowel transcribed \ä\ at *cod* but usually of greater duration (see the statement about exceptions at the section on \ä\). Some transcribers treat the greater duration as a prolongation of the \ä\ sound, others as a diphthongization of the \ä\ sound to \äə\. In the South, with the exception of a small area of coastal Virginia, \ȧ\ occurs in the *ask* words only in conscious imitation of the speech of areas in which its use is natural. Its occurrence in New York City is also chiefly imitative, but *aunt* and *rather* have \ȧ\ (or \ä\) with some frequency. Because any word for which only an \a\ pronunciation is shown in this book may with many New York City speakers have a vowel of a quality like that of eastern New England \ȧ\, this latter vowel is perhaps to be regarded as merely a nonsignificant variant of \a\ in their speech.

In another kind of *r*-dropping speech heard in the southeastern U.S. and in New York City, the vowel transcribed \ȧ\ at *card* is articulatorily between that of *cod* and that of *cawed*. Speakers with whom the \ȧ\ is of such quality do not have \ȧ\ in the *ask* words. Any New York City speakers who may use in the *ask* words a vowel of the quality that is transcribed \ȧ\ for other dialects are to be regarded as using a nonsignificant variety of \a\. See the preceding paragraph.

Some transcribers use the symbol \ȧ\ for the vowel of most Scottish speakers in words which in most dialects are pronounced with \a\, \aa(ə)\, or \ai\, as *cat, man, bag*. This Scottish vowel is of much the same quality as eastern New England \ȧ\ but usually markedly shorter. We use for it the symbol \a\. See the section on \a\.

See also the section on \ä\.

\aa\, \aaə chiefly in what is known as the Middle Atlantic region, an area that has New York City and Washington, D.C. on its perimeter. This vowel occurs in one or more of the following groups of words:

(1) words like *bare, fair*, and *Sayre*.

(2) words like *Cary, hairy, vary*, in which typically the sound \r\ represented by a single *r* in the spelling is followed by a vowel sound and is preceded by a vowel sound whose orthographic representation is *a* or a vowel sequence containing *a*. With speakers who have \aa(ə)\ in these words the members of the following groups are usually or often distinct: *Cary, carry, Kerry; hairy, Harry; vary, very*.

(3) words like *sail, sailor, Haley*, which in other dialects usually contain the sequence \āl\ or (when not immediately followed by a vowel sound) \āəl\. With speakers who have \aa(ə)l\ in these words, *barely* and *Bailey* may be exact rhymes. \aa(ə)\ in this group of words is reported to be less frequent among cultivated speakers.

(4) most words that have in other dialects the vowel \a\ or \ai\ in the last syllable immediately followed by one of the following consonants:

\b\, \d\, \g\, \j\
\f\, \v\, \th\, \t̲h\, \s\, \z\, \sh\
\m\, \n\

When a suffix is added to such words, the vowel usually remains the same, except that the \ə\ final element is usually lost. Before some of the above consonants or some consonant groups of which one of the above is the first member, \aa\ also occurs in syllables that are not final without the help of a suffix addition. The consonants just shown are classified into three groups as an aid to the memory. The first group consists of voiced stops (\j\ is actually a double sound, \d\ + \zh\, the first constituent of which is a voiced stop), the second group consists of voiced and unvoiced fricatives (\zh\ is not listed because there is no fully English word that ends in \aa(ə)zh\), and the third group consists of two of the three nasal consonants. With speakers who have \aa(ə)\ in these words, the vowel of *cab* is readily perceived as markedly different from the vowel of *cap* (although those who do not have \aa(ə)\ may have trouble hearing the distinction); *can* ("container" or "to put in a container") may be distinct from the emphatic form of *can* ("to be able"), and *halve* may be distinct from the emphatic form of *have*, in that the first member of each pair has \aa(ə)\ whereas the second has \a\; *fad* and *fared* when they are identical in stress may be exact rhymes.

In accord with our system of doubling a symbol to indicate duration, \aa\ is longer than \a\. In one variant it is of substantially the same quality as \a\, in a second and possibly commoner variant it is formed with a higher tongue position than \a\ (approaching the tongue position for \e\), and in a third and comparatively infrequent variant it is \ȧ\ (see section on \ȧ\). Sometimes \aa\ is followed by a distinct \ə\ off-glide, indicated by three transcriptions \aa\, \aa(ə)\, \aaə\. When the \ə\ is present, it is the overall length of the diphthong that distinguishes or helps to distinguish the vowel from \a\, but to indicate that what we transcribe \aa\ is longer when the \aa\ is a monophthong than when it is the first part of a diphthong would unnecessarily complicate the transcription.*

\ää as the sound \ä\ when it is appreciably long in duration and is distinct from the shorter \ä\ for the reason that both may occur in the same environment. Thus, the German words *Stadt* and *Staat*, in the dialect of German usually regarded as standard, consist of the sounds \sh\, \t\, a vowel of \ä\ quality, and \t\, but the \ä\ in *Stadt* is not as long as the \ä\ in *Staat*. In our system the German pronunciations are transcribed \'shtät\ and \'shtäät\ respectively. When such foreign words are pronounced in an English context by one whose native language is English, the durational difference is often lost.

Although the [ä] : [ää] difference in duration serves to distinguish otherwise identical words, as *cod* and *card*, in the *r*-dropping dialects of the southeastern U.S. and New York City, we do not employ [ää] in our symbolization of this difference. In *r*-dropping English speech as a whole there are several values of the vowel spelled *ar* in *card* that make that word distinct from *cod*, and all of these values, including [ää], are subsumed under the symbol \ȧ\.

\a(a)(ə) \e(ə)\ is to be understood as a variant when it does not appear in a vocabulary transcription, as at *cudbear*.

\aaⁿ as the sound of the *ein* in the French pronunciation of French *enceinte* — that is, a lengthened \aⁿ\. See section on \ⁿ\.

\ääⁿ as the sound of the *ande* in the French pronunciation of French *bande* — that is, a lengthened \äⁿ\. See section on \ⁿ\.

\a(a)rV \erV\ and \ārV\ are to be understood as variants when they do not appear in a vocabulary transcription, as at *myaria*.

accentuation see the section on stress marks.

\ai articulated as a tense monophthong with the tongue higher than for \a\ or as a diphthong having approximately the beginning and ending limits indicated by the \ai\ transcription. Although using the two-symbol transcription is more convenient than devising another diacritic, the sound is in its less emphatic utterances at least a monophthong.

It occurs before some but not all of the consonants listed in classification (4) in the section on \aa\ and \aaə\; it does not occur in words that belong to the other three classifications there; and it occurs before one consonant not listed in any of the four classifications there — the nasal \ŋ\. The occurrence of \ai\ in the dialect of a native of southern Illinois compares as follows with the occurrence of \aa(ə)\ : \ai\ is almost invariable before \g\ even in syllables far removed from the last but does not occur before \b\ and \j\ and occurs before \d\ only in a few words (*bad, glad, mad*), chiefly when they are emphatic. \ai\ occurs before \f\, \v\, \th\, \t̲h\, and \s\ chiefly in final and near-final syllables (as in *half, bath, baths*, the variant \'shaivz\ of *shafts*, and *pass*) and before \sh\ even in syllables distant from the last (as in *passionate*); it does not occur before \z\ (in *jazz* for instance) nor in emphatic *have* or *has to*. \ai\ does not occur before \m\ or \n\ when one of these is the only consonant that follows (as in *ram, ran*, except that *man* may have \ai\ when it is emphatic, as in the interjectional phrase "Man oh man!") but it does occur before certain consonant sequences of which \m\ or \n\ is the first member (as in *sample, answer*). Before \ŋ\, \ai\ may occur in any syllable whereas \aa(ə)\ appears not to occur before \ŋ\ at all. In some parts of the southern U.S., particularly in uncultivated speech, the incidence of \ai\ seems to be wider than in the speech just described.

Precisely what the phonetic relationship is between \aa(ə)\ and \ai\ is uncertain. If both are diphthongs in their maximum-stress occurrences, then the difference in the ending positions of the diphthongs (\ə\ in one case, \i\ in the other) constitutes a distinction. If both vowels are in some of their occurrences monophthongs, then the difference is not so palpable. Both are fairly long vowels, and length therefore is an unlikely basis of difference. With some speakers \aa\ is of the same quality and tongue height as \a\ but longer, whereas with speakers who have \ai\, that vowel is always higher than the speaker's \a\ during all or a part of its articulation — *all* if \ai\ is a monophthong, *a part* if \ai\ is a diphthong. When one adds to this the fact that the \a\ (as in *cap*) of many Middle Atlantic speakers is an appreciably different vowel from the \a\ (as in *cap*) of speakers in most of the rest of the country, it is obvious that \aa\ must often be a quite different vowel from monophthongal \ai\. The \a\ in *cap* of many Middle Atlantic speakers is obviously a vowel with considerable \ȧ\ coloration in it. Speakers in other parts of the country use in *cap* a vowel that is much the same in quality (if not in length) as the monophthongal variety of \aa\ vowel in *cast*. Before certain consonants and with some speakers, the Middle Atlantic vowel that we transcribe \aa\ may be the same as the vowel that we transcribe \ai\. Since the words in which \aa(ə)\ is used instead of \a\ and \ai\ is used instead of \a\ are far from being always the same, it would cause difficulty to try to make only one of these two symbols do the work of both in a given transcription.

There are even fewer pairs of words that are distinguished solely by the difference between \a\ and \ai\ than there are pairs that are distinguished solely by the difference between \a\ and \aa(ə)\. In the speech of some *halve* is usually distinct from emphatic *have* and *salvy* from *savvy* in that the first member of each pair

*This account is based to a large extent on that of Allan F. Hubbell in his *Pronunciation of English in New York City* (1950) but he is in no way responsible for our interpretation of his data.

has \ai\ and the second \a\. The same is probably true of the pair *bad : bade* in the speech of many.

\ äi\, \ȧi in the dictionary we have shown no pronunciation for the present participle of the few verbs which have as a final sound \ä\ or \ȧ\ (as *sol-fa*), with the implication that the transcription if shown would be \-äiŋ\, \-ȧiŋ\, \-äēŋ\, \-ȧēŋ\. Since, as stated in the section on \ī\, the first component of the diphthong represented \ī\ is usually \ä\ or \ȧ\ and the second component is or may be \i\, the question arises as to whether the vowel sequence immediately preceding the \ŋ\ of such present participles may not be identical with the sequence in *fine*. For the reasons stated in the section on \ȯi\, random-listening evidence on this matter is difficult to come by. When the last syllable of a verb ending in \ä\ or \ȧ\ is under primary stress (as in *hurrahing*), the \ä\ or \ȧ\ usually seems longer than the \ä\ or \ȧ\ of *fine;* when the \ä\ or \ȧ\ syllable has less than primary stress (as in some utterances of *sol-faing*) the two sequences are more apt to be leveled.

\ āl words transcribed with this succession of symbols, as *sail, alien*, often have \aa(ə)l\ instead in Middle Atlantic speech. The \aa(ə)l\ variant is not shown in transcriptions in the vocabulary.

\ a^{n} see section on \$^{n}$\.

\ ä^{n} see section on \$^{n}$\.

anglicization see section on foreign words.

\ ār occurs in the deep South and in Scotland in words like *barbarian* and *various*, and in Scotland in words like *fair*. In the dictionary \ār\ is not shown for any except Scottish words of the latter type, and is shown only for common words of the former type.

\ aů as the sound of *ow* in *now*, *ou* in *loud*, and *ou* in *out*, and used by many instead of \al\ in some words when certain labial or velar consonants follow, as in *scalp, Ralph, album, valve, talcum*. When \aů\ is not an alternative to \al\, the first part of the diphthong may have a range from unrounded \ä\ to \e\, the \e\ occurring especially in dialect. The in-between varieties with \a\ or \ȧ\ are commoner, and it is difficult to be sure whether one is hearing \a\ or \ȧ\ unless there is prolongation of this part of the diphthong, as in the speech of some areas. \ȧ\ or an equivalent is the symbol usually employed for the first part of the sound, but fully as good a case can be made for \a\. There may be prejudice against the use of \a\ because of the exaggerated length of this sound in the diphthong often heard in styles of Southern speech regarded by many as substandard. Such length is not a necessary concomitant of the sound in this diphthong.

In a coastal area of the southern U.S. extending from Virginia to So. Carolina and in some areas of eastern Canada, still another variety of this diphthong occurs — one in which the first element is \ə\ or \ə̄\ or \ō\. Those who have this variety in their speech have the other also, the first occurring before voiceless consonants (as in *out*) and the second before voiced consonants and finally (as in *loud, now*). Although the two varieties strike even the most untrained ear as widely different, it is not necessary to have two different symbols since their occurrence is determined by the phonetic context.

When \aů\ is alternative to \al\, the range of \a\ is no wider than that of \a\ when it is followed by a sound other than \ů\. Although using \aů\ in the transcription of one class of words in which there is and of another class in which there is not a wide range of variation is not an ideal procedure, neither are the other two possibilities: (1) using \aů\ as the alternative to \al\ but \ȧů\ or some other variant for words of the type *out* and *loud;* this would not as readily convey the information that the diphthong in the two classes may be identical; (2) giving the full range of at least five variants for words like *out* and *loud* but only \aů\ when the variant is \al\. This would have made transcribing too space- and time-consuming.

Although we do not show the possibility in vocabulary pronunciations, with some speakers who have \a\ as the first element of their diphthong in *loud*, the sequence of sounds that we transcribe \al\ in some words and \aůl\ in others, depending on the spelling, is probably actually \aůl\ in both classes. Such pairs as *Al : owl, Cal : cowl, Hal : howel, Halley : Howley, Alice Ide : owl aside* are sometimes identical (the second member of the \l\-final pairs is subject to the intrusion of a parasitic \ə\ sound after the \ů\, the first is not). The variety of \l\ used by most Americans outside the South in words such as those cited is known as the dark variety, in which the back of the tongue is in a position for \ů\ or a neighboring vowel. Since the back of the tongue must reach this position before the tip makes the contact for the articulation of an \l\, the intrusion of an \ů\ or of a closely related vowel sound seems highly probable.

The use of \aů\ instead of \al\ before \y\, as in *medallion, Italian*, belongs chiefly to substandard speech. See section on \l\.

\ b as in *baby, knob*.

\ b̲ as in the Spanish pronunciation of *hablar*. Whereas for \b\ the lips are in contact and form a closure along their entire extent, for \b̲\ the lips are close together without closure.

brackets, square [ ] lightface square brackets are used in this guide instead of slant enclosures to enclose transcriptions that are phonetic rather than phonemic.

British dialect see section on foreign words.

centered period see separate section on "Divisions in Respelled Pronunciations".

\ ch based on English orthography, for the sound \t\ followed by the sound \sh\ in the same syllable, as in *chin, pitcher, fixture, Christian*. The sounds that come between the two vowels in the words *cha-cha* (dance) and *hotshot* can in both cases be regarded as \t\ followed by \sh\ but as being in the same syllable in the first (\'chä,chä\) and distributed between the two syllables in the second (\'hät,shät\). If our transcription for what precedes the first vowel in *cha-cha* had been \tsh\, the transcription for *cha-cha* and *hotshot* would have been \'tshä-,tshä\ and \'hät-,shät\ respectively.

For words of the type *mention, essential*, and *provincial*, transcriptions of the type \-nshən\ and \-nshəl\ have enjoyed a long tradition in dictionaries. At least in American speech and in common words of this type \t\ almost always intrudes between the \n\ and \sh\, and we transcribe \-nchən\ and \-nchəl\.

comparatives of adjectives see sections on INFLECTED FORMS, DIVISION OF and on INFLECTED FORMS, PRONUNCIATION OF.

correctness in pronunciation

The term *correct pronunciation* is often used. Yet it is probable that many who use the term would find it difficult to give a precise and clear definition of the sense in which they use it. As every kind of correctness implies a standard of measurement, so in pronunciation it is intimately bound up with the question of standard pronunciation. It has been stated that there are certain extensive regional types of cultivated English speech that have spread far beyond the area of their local origin, as the southern British or American speech is which *r* is not dropped. It might be reasonably maintained that it would be incorrect for an educated native of London or Oxford to say \'ask\ or to pronounce the *r* in *farm*, just as it would be incorrect for the midwestern American to say \'ȧsk\ or \'fȧm\; for in both cases it is contrary to the standard which prevails in each region. From the nature of the case, when the essential facts are considered, correctness of pronunciation must be a flexible term. It is perhaps as accurate a definition as can be made to say that a pronunciation is correct when it is in actual use by a sufficient number of cultivated speakers. This is obviously elastic, depending both on knowledge — never accurately ascertainable — of the number of users, and on judgment as to the cultivation of the speakers. Mere majorities, without consideration of historical linguistic background and regional distribution, are not decisive. For example, the fact that more speakers in the English-speaking world habitually use *R* American than any other single type cannot vitiate the standing of the southern British pronunciation for the educated Englishman.

It has been frequently maintained, and more often assumed, that some single type should be looked upon as solely standard. But this is not the prevailing view of those who are familiar with the essential facts (the detailed differences of pronunciation in the different types, their historical development and relations, the various conditions — chiefly uncontrollable — which in the past have brought certain types into prominence) and who, therefore, possess that breadth of view and freedom from local prejudice that result from acquaintance with those phonetic features, often strikingly different, that have attained to approved usage in the standard types of English and other languages. The following statements are worthy of consideration:

Daniel Jones, M.A., emeritus head of the department of Phonetics, University College, London:

"I have no intention of becoming either a reformer of pronunciation or a judge who decides what pronunciations are 'good' and what are 'bad'. My aim is to observe and record accurately, and I do not believe in the feasibility of imposing one particular form of pronunciation on the English-speaking world. I take the view that people should be allowed to speak as they like. And if the public wants a standardized pronunciation, I have no doubt that some appropriate standard will evolve itself. If there are any who think otherwise, it must be left to them to undertake the invidious task of deciding what is to be approved and what is to be condemned" — from *English Pronouncing Dictionary*, N.Y., 1956, p. xvi.

"I do not consider it possible at the present time to regard any special type as 'Standard' or as intrinsically 'better' than other types." . . . "The term 'Received Pronunciation' . . . is often used to designate this type of pronunciation. This term is adopted here for want of a better. I wish it, however, to be understood that other types of pronunciation exist which may be considered equally 'good' " — from *An Outline of English Phonetics*, 8th ed., N.Y., 1956, p. 12.

A. Lloyd James, M.A., late University reader in Phonetics, School of Oriental Studies, London; linguistic adviser to the British Broadcasting Corporation; and secretary of the B.B.C. Advisory Committee on Spoken English:

"The listener who writes to ask the 'correct way' of pronouncing a word quite evidently assumes that there *is* a 'correct way'. In all these queries and criticisms there is implied the idea of a standard pronunciation. We have a standard yard, a standard pound weight, a standard sovereign, and a standard pint. The yard does not vary from Aberdeen to Plymouth, and the pint pot contains as much in Mayfair as in Bethnal Green. Unfortunately speech is not capable of rigid measurement, and there is no standard of pronunciation. Pronunciation varies from district to district, from class to class, from character to character, in proportion to the local, social, or moral difference that separates them. . . . It is quite evident that we are not entitled to conclude that there is *one* standard pronunciation, *one* and *only one* right way of speaking English. There are varieties that are acceptable throughout the country, and others that are not" — from *Broadcast English*, I., 2d ed., London, 1931, pp. 11 f.

Samuel Moore, Ph.D., late professor of English in the University of Michigan, and editor of the *Middle English Dictionary:*

"When we consider all the varieties of English spoken by those who are admitted to speak 'good English' in the different British colonies and in different parts of the United States, we must recognize that there is still no Standard Spoken English in any strict sense of the term. In every part of the English-speaking world some type of spoken English, that which is used by the educated and superior class within the community, is considered 'good English', as contrasted with the 'Vulgar English' and local dialects spoken by other classes of the community. If we use the term Standard Spoken English at all we must recognize that it is merely a convenient way of speaking of the various kinds of 'good English' that are current in various parts of the English-speaking world" — from *Historical Outlines of English Phonology and Morphology*, 1929, p. 114.

George Philip Krapp, Ph.D., late professor of English in Columbia University:

"A sufficient definition of the term standard will perhaps be found in the statement that speech is standard when it passes current in actual use among persons who must be accounted as among the conservers and representatives of the approved social traditions of a community" — from *The English Language in America*, N.Y., 1925, II, 7.

Edward S. Sheldon, late professor of Romance Languages in Harvard University, and editor of etymologies for Webster's *International*, 1909, and *New International Dictionaries*, Second Edition, 1934:

"The so-called standard language is not a fixed and infallible standard, but is itself constantly changing with the course of time, and is different in the different places where it is spoken" — from "What is a Dialect?" *Dialect Notes*, I, 287.

Otto Jespersen, late professor of English in the University of Copenhagen:

"Our chief concern will be with the normal speech of the educated class, what may be called Standard English" — from *Essentials of English Grammar*, N.Y. [1933], p. 16.

The question, what degree of uniformity exists in the various cultivated types of English speech, depends on what differences one chooses to emphasize, and what to ignore. At present all cultivated types, when well spoken, are easily intelligible to any speaker of English, and there is a very large percentage of practical identity in the speech sounds used. For example, it has been found that, in a thousand words from *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* as they would be pronounced by a native of Rochester, N.Y., and a native of London, respectively, there are 125 words that would differ in the use of \r\, 36 in the sound of *o* as in *not*, 11 in the sound of *a* as in *ask*, and 4 in the use of the secondary accent. These four differences may be looked upon as the differences of pronunciation in the two types most noticeable to the average person, and one of these, the short *o*, might often pass unnoticed. In most other respects the same phonetic symbols would be used to represent the two types.

Since the establishment of orthoepy as a feature of English dictionaries, the standard assumed has been considerably changed, and has of necessity been made broader. While usage is still and must always be the standard, it is no longer the usage of a particular locality, since the pronunciation of no one locality can now claim admitted

precedence. Nor can the pronunciation of any one person, or group of persons, be taken as a standard for all, for such pronunciation is in some cases more advanced, in others more archaic, than the average. Orthoepists of former generations are authorities for the present generation only in so far as their work agrees with good present usage.

The standard of English pronunciation, then, so far as a standard may be said to exist, is the usage that now prevails among the educated and cultured people to whom the language is vernacular; but, as shown above, since somewhat different pronunciations are used by the cultivated in different regions too large to be ignored, we must admit the fact that uniformity of pronunciation is not to be found throughout the English-speaking world, though there is a very large percentage of practical uniformity.

The function of a pronouncing dictionary is to record as far as possible the pronunciations prevailing in the best present usage rather than to attempt to dictate what that usage should be. In so far as a dictionary may be known and acknowledged as a faithful recorder and interpreter of such usage, so far and no farther may it be appealed to as an authority.

In the case of diverse usages of extensive prevalence, the dictionary must recognize each of them.

There is a constantly increasing body of technical terms which, being more often written than spoken, are often called "book words". For many of these no accepted usage can properly be said to exist, and their pronunciations must be determined on the analogies of words more often spoken, or according to the accepted rules of pronunciation for the languages from which they are derived.

\d as in *dried, deduce*. See section on \d·\ immediately following.

\d· when one starts from pause and utters the word *die*, the consonant is produced by breaking a closure produced by the tongue against the front of the palate, to the accompaniment of vibration of the vocal cords. When one starts from pause and utters the word *tie*, the consonant is produced by breaking the same closure but without vibration of the vocal cords. The basic difference between the two sounds is that one is voiced and the other is voiceless, and when hearing conditions are not unfavorable, the two can usually be easily enough distinguished without the help of context. In the pronunciation of the *dd* of *ladder* and of the *tt* of *latter* used by some speakers (British, most consistently), the same readily heard distinction is made. Most U.S. speakers, however, do not use closure (stop) consonants in the words *ladder* and *latter* but a voiced flap consonant and the two words cannot be distinguished out of context. This flap consonant is either very similar to or identical with the sound often heard from British speakers for the *r* of *very*, the spelling *veddy* often being used by Americans to mimic this pronunciation.

The voiced flap consonant appears to be normal for *d*(*d*) in American speech when a vowel immediately precedes and a vowel or \ᵊl\ immediately follows, regardless of the stress of the two syllables (*ladder, tidal, parody, made-up, grade A, adorn*). It also appears to be normal for *t*(*t*) in American speech in the same environment when the second vowel is unstressed (*latter, title, parity*) and when the second word is stressed and *t*(*t*) ends a word or a word within a word (*at Omaha, pick it up, great A, butt end, separatism*). In words in which *t*(*t*) is not word-final, a vowel with primary stress precedes, and a vowel with secondary stress follows, both the flap and the voiceless stop (\t\) are quite common (*veto, Hittite, Mithridates*). Exceptionally, the flap is fairly frequent for the first *t* of *potato* (and is, of course, usual for the second *t*).

Some speakers seem to level *d*(*d*) and *t*(*t*) before \ᵊn\, in pairs like *ridden : written*. Such leveling is not as familiar to us and has not been shown in our transcriptions. The leveling sound before \ᵊn\ is probably a voiced stop rather than a flap.

Most transcribers use a special symbol for the flapped sound. We have employed another approach, however. As previously pointed out, when one starts from pause and pronounces *die* or *tie*, the beginning sound is a stop, voiced for *die*, voiceless for *tie*. The voiced flap sound does not occur finally before a pause but a typical occurrence of it is for word-final, and hence syllable-final, *t*(*t*) before a vowel. The flap that occurs for *d*(*d*) and *t*(*t*) in American English is always a single sound that follows a vowel and precedes a vowel or syllabic consonant (the \r\ that occurs in *r*-keeping speech in a word like *forty* is more vowel than consonant — see the section on \r\). Vowels and syllabic consonants are syllable nuclei, and there is accordingly a syllable boundary between what precedes and what follows the voiced flap sound. It has seemed altogether practicable to treat the alveolar voiced stop \d\ as a syllable-initial \d\ (transcription \·d\) and to treat the alveolar voiced flap as a syllable-final \d\ (transcription \d·\). Since both the flap and the voiced alveolar stops are heard for intervocalic *d*(*d*), the syliable divisor · is not used in the transcription of such words. Since a voiced stop is not used for *t*(*t*) before a vowel or \ᵊl\, the flap pronunciation of such words is always indicated by placing the · after the \d\. For all *t*(*t*) words that are commonly pronounced with the voiced flap in American English, a pronunciation with the voiceless alveolar stop is usual in some dialects (as British) and occurs with more or less frequency, especially for emphasis, as an alternative pronunciation. Examples of our transcription of *d*(*d*) and *t*(*t*) before a vowel or \ᵊl\:

ladder \'ladə(r)\ (=\'lad·ə(r)\ *or* \'la·də(r)\)

latter \'lad·ə(r), -atə(r)\ (\'la·də(r)\ is not a normal pronunciation)

editor \'edəd·ə(r), -ətə(r)\

competitor \kəm'ped·əd·ə(r), -etətə(r)\ (this formula is to be understood as also covering a permutation like \-ed·ətə(r)\)

adapt \ə'dapt\ (=\ə·'dapt\ *or* \ədˈapt\)

attack \ə'tak\

For uncommon *t*(*t*) words, usually only the \d·\ variant is shown in the vocabulary. \t\ is always to be understood as an acceptable variant of \d·\.

Some observers who grant the leveling of the consonant in pairs like *ladder : latter* insist that the pairs are nevertheless distinct in that the vowel preceding the consonant is longer for the *d*(*d*) than for the *t*(*t*) word. We have not been sufficiently convinced of such a distinction to show it.

When *t* is initial in a word with an unstressed vowel or first vowel and follows without pause a word ending with a voiced consonant, or when in the same word *t* precedes an unstressed vowel and is preceded by a voiced consonant which in turn is preceded by an unstressed vowel, the *t* is probably often a stop \d\ (not \d·\), as in *a dog to watch, hang together, seventy*.

dissimilation see the vocabulary definition. \r\ dissimilation by *R* speakers (see section on *R*) is the most frequent kind in English. When the \r\ affected is preconsonantal, or word-final and therefore potentially prepausal, it is necessary to use the labels *R* and *–R* in order to make it clear that the omission occurs in *R* speech. A mere transcription \sə(r)'prīz\ at *surprise*, for example, would justifiably be interpreted as meaning that \sər'prīz\ is the *R* and \sə'prīz\ the *–R* pronunciation, whereas actually \sə'prīz\ is frequent *R* as well.

Dissimilation of \l\ is probably next most frequent after \r\ in English, probably accounting, for example, for the frequent pronouncing of only the second *l* of *ophthalmologist* and *Guadalcanal* and of only the first *l* of *Wilhelmina*. (The last two words are not included in the vocabulary.)

ditto mark see 2.8.1, 2.8.2 in "Explanatory Notes".

division see "Divisions in Respelled Pronunciations" following \zü\. There is also an earlier section entitled "Divisions in Boldface Entry Words", not strictly in the field of pronunciation although to a great extent determined by pronunciation.

double hyphen (=) see 2.7.1, 2.7.2 in "Explanatory Notes".

doubling the doubling or repeating of a symbol indicates a sound of greater duration than is indicated by the symbol standing single. In the variants \'manlē\ and \'maanlē\ for *manly*, \aa\ is a vowel of greater duration than \a\; in \'shtäät\, German pronunciation of German *Staat*, and \'shtät\, German pronunciation of German *Stadt*, \ää\ is a vowel of greater duration than \ä\; in \'hīnəs\ *highness* and \'fīnnəs\ *fineness*, \nn\ is a consonant of greater duration than \n\. In the case of vowels, there may be a slight difference of quality in addition to the difference in duration but it is not necessary to transcribe this too: it can be regarded as a by-product of the lengthening.

Because of the practices of English orthography and of other pronunciation alphabets, a word of warning is necessary about certain of these doubled symbols that will be found in transcriptions of foreign words and phrases. \ee\ is a vowel having a quality like that of the *e* in *red* but of greater duration, not a vowel having the quality of the *ee* in *reed;* \ō ō\ and \òò\ are long vowels having a quality like that of the *o* in *coerce* and the *o* in *sort* respectively, not vowels having the quality of the *oo* in *boot* or *foot*.

\e as in *bet, bed*, and the first syllable of *merry;* in some American speech, the vowel of the first syllable of *marry* and the vowel or the core vowel of words like *bear* and *bare*.

Some speakers who have \a\ or \aa\ in most words of the type *bear, bare*, have \e\ in a small number of words of this type (among them *care, chair, scare, scarce*, emphatic *where*) in which the preceding sound is articulated with the tongue high in the mouth. Apparently by assimilative influence, the \a(a)\ is replaced by the higher \e\.

Some speakers have \a\ or \aa\ in emphatic *there* but \e\ in emphatic *their* and in *theirs*.

In words of the type *barbarian, various*, the same speakers have \e\ in some and \a(a)\ in others. Some appear to interchange \e\ and \a(a)\ in the same word. In the deep South and in Scottish, \ā\ occurs in these words. For uncommon words, we have usually transcribed \a(a)\. \e\ and \ā\ are always to be understood as variants of this \a(a)\.

\ē as in *beat, bead*, and the first syllable of *beady*, and the unstressed vowel used by most American speakers, and apparently also by most Canadian and Australian speakers, in the second syllable of *lady, cities*, and as a prevocalic in *piano, serious, meander*. In some parts of the southern U.S., \i\ appears to prevail in these unstressed syllables, and British phoneticians transcribe \i\ although reporting that the British vowel is sometimes \e\ (vowel of *bet*) or something approaching it. \i\ is favored by some who, while admitting that \ē\ better represents the quality of the usual American vowel, have misgivings that \ē\ in transcriptions may foster a tendency to overpronounce (i.e., to pronounce an \ē\ with full secondary stress).

To hold down the number of variants in transcriptions, only \ē\ has been shown for the *i* of *piano* and *serious* and the first *e* of *meander*. It may be, as some transcribers appear to believe, that \ē\ is used in such words by speakers who have \i\ in *lady*, but \i\ is surely frequent enough to justify the blanket recognition here of \i\ as an always-to-be-understood variant of unstressed \ē\.

\ee used only in the transcription of words from foreign languages; of long duration and with a quality like that of the *e* in English *red*, not like that of *ee* in English *reed*.

\ēr occurs in the deep South and in Scotland in words like *serial, serious, weary*, and in Scotland in words like *hear, mere, veer*.

It is not shown for any except Scottish words of the latter type, and is shown only for common words of the former type.

\eu̇ as a frequent variant of \el\ when certain consonant sounds follow, as in *elk, elm, help, twelve*. The use of \eu̇\ instead of \el\ before \y\, as in *hellion, rebellious*, belongs chiefly to substandard speech. See section on \l\.

\f as in *five, traffic, puff*.

foreign words for foreign words borrowed unchanged into English and italicized by some writers to signify that they are regarded as falling short of complete naturalization, we nevertheless often show in the vocabulary a pronunciation somewhat anglicized. Even an approximation to some foreign sounds is difficult or impossible for the average speaker of English who does not have a speaking knowledge of the foreign language, and even when a sound close to the foreign sound exists in English it may be passed over in favor of one that is usual in the same environment in English words. Thus the Italian name *Garibaldi* is usually pronounced by English speakers with the first vowel as in *garrison* and the third as in *bald*, although the vowel of *garb* is closer to the one vowel that occurs in both syllables in Italian. The speaker who is sufficiently conversant with the phonetics of a foreign language to be capable and desirous of using the full foreign pronunciation is unlikely to use an English dictionary as a source, and we have accordingly often not given the foreign pronunciation even as a variant. In general we give foreign pronunciations when known usage has shown them or similar pronunciations to be within the capabilities of educated English speakers inexpert in the foreign language, or when no anglicization is known to us to be established and the foreign pattern is such that there is insufficient analogy to make an anglicized pattern safely predictable.

For the same reasons we also show a standard-English pronunciation pattern for words or parts of words belonging to British dialect, including Scottish. Thus the vowel of *clat* is shown as \a\, the vowel of *fat* in standard English, and the vowel of *darg* is shown as \ä\, one of the vowels of *bargain* in standard English, although the two words have the same vowel in much British dialect. It seems pointless to give only \a\ for words like *fat* that belong to standard English as well as to British dialect and to give some other vowel for a word like *clat* that belongs exclusively to British dialect and that rhymes with *fat* in that dialect. A dictionary key that tells the speaker of standard English who is completely ignorant of British dialect that *clat* has the vowel of *fat* provides that consultant with a pronunciation that in his ignorance of dialect he would be well advised to use; a speaker of the British dialect Scottish who finds \a\ for *clat* in a dictionary and finds *fat* cited as a key word for \a\ is not misled; a speaker of standard English who knows something about Scottish knows that his vowel in *fat* is not Scottish dialect's vowel in *fat*, and also knows what vowel does occur there instead of his vowel.

French words fully French pronunciations are shown without any stress marks, in accord with the usual practice of transcribers of French.

\g as in *get, got, tiger, big*.

\ğ as for *g* in Spanish *luego;* a non-English voiced fricative sound, made with the tongue in approximately the position for \g\ in English *go* but without closure.

glottal stop a phonetic effect (symbol \ˀ\) produced by a complete closure in the throat (more specifically, a closure of the vocal cords) that makes it impossible for breath to issue from the lungs. It is the same phenomenon that bottles up the breath before a cough or before the clearing of the throat. In speech it may occur between silence and a sound, between two sounds, or between a sound and silence. In some languages (as standard English, with the exception of a few interjections — see section on interjections), the glottal stop occurs only as an accidental, in some cases almost inevitable, sound, and adds no significance to the context in which it occurs: if it were omitted the meaning of the context would not be altered. Thus, this sound often occurs between \ə\ and a following vowel sound (as in *ultra-atomic, ultraism*) or before the vowel in a vowel-initial word that is under emphasis (as "Eggs!" or, with an intonation of annoyance or disbelief, "Eggs?"). In speech usually regarded as nonstandard and not recorded in this book, the glottal stop in certain contexts replaces \d·\ or \t\ of standard speech, as in \'wȯə(r)\ for *water*. Omission of the stop in such cases might cause misunderstanding if the context were ambiguous enough, since \'wȯə(r)\ is a pronunciation of *war*. In the type of German speech usually regarded as standard, a glottal stop occurs with great frequency before or at the beginning of words stressed on the first syllable and having no consonant letter preceding the first-syllable vowel; it is usually retained when the word follows another member in a compound. Such a glottal stop is symbolized by some transcribers but not by others. Whether it is phonemic or not, it is symbolized in this book in fully German transcriptions of words in which it occurs because its absence hinders ready comprehension by a German listener. We believe that a certain number of departures from strict phonemicity are advisable in the sporadic fully foreign pronunciations.

-gu-, -qu-; division of words containing for the end-of-the-line division of words like *leaguing* and *cataloguer* and *piquing*, in which *gu* is pronounced \g\, *qu* is pronounced \k\, and a following *e* is dropped before a syllable-increasing English suffix is added, see section on inflected forms, division of.

When the pronounced vowel that follows the *u* is not an English suffix or a part of one, the most satisfactory division between the two syllables is immediately preceding the *g* or *q*, as in *belea·guer, li·quor, che·quered*.

\gy in at least three coastal areas of the South — Virginia, South Carolina, eastern Texas — a \y\ sound often intrudes between \g\ and certain or all of the members of the vowel series from \ē\ to \ä\. Thus, *garden* is often \'gyädᵊn\ in Charleston. These variants are not shown in this book.

\h as in *hat, ahead;* in the anglicized pronunciation of Spanish-derived words, \h\ is the usual pronunciation before a stressed vowel of a sound that in some dialects at least of Spanish is \x\ — for example, for the *x* of *Don Quixote*.

\hw used for the *wh* of *whet* by speakers whose *whet* and *wet* are not pronounced the same. Some phoneticians regard \hw\ not as two sounds but as one, a voiceless \w\. With most American speakers *whet* and *wet* differ in pronunciation but with most southern British speakers they do not.

\i as in *bit, bid, here, hear*.

\ī as in *try, light, guide, aisle*. \ī\ is a diphthong, not a single sound, with heaviest stress on the first element. Its beginning position ranges from the position for the \ä\ heard in *ask* in eastern New England to the position for the unrounded \ä\ heard from most U.S. speakers for the vowel of *hot, heart;* its ending position ranges from that for monophthongal \ā\ to that for \i\. In eastern Virginia and in an area of Canada having Toronto as its metropolis, the position of the first element before voiceless consonants is approximately that of the \'ə\ of *nut*. In the southern U.S., the second part of the \äi\ or \äi\ variety of the diphthong may disappear, and finally and before voiced consonants, less often before voiceless consonants, the pronunciation may be simply \ä\ or unrounded \ä\, as in \'wȧvz\ or \'wävz\ for *wives*.

See section on \äi\.

incomplete pronunciations many of the pronunciations shown in this dictionary are for a part of the entry only and the user is to seek the missing part somewhere else in the dictionary. Two of the most frequently used indicators that a sound symbol or a sequence of sound symbols is not a complete pronunciation for the whole of a boldface entry are the ordinary single hyphen and the vertical bar (for the latter see the paragraph on | and 2.6 of "Explanatory Notes"). A hyphen at the left-hand side of a roman-type item within reversed virgules means that something is missing at the beginning (\-līn\); a hyphen at the right-hand side means that something is missing at the end (\'kōd-\); a hyphen to both left and right means that something is missing at both beginning and end (\-tȯr-\). If the missing part is the pronunciation of a word or of words pronounced at its or their own alphabetical place in the vocabulary, the missing part should be sought there.

law of ti·ti·us \-'tētsēəs\ [missing part at *law* and *of*]
gresh·am's law \'greshəmz-\ [missing part at *law*]

Otherwise the missing part is to be supplied from the corresponding part of a variant pronunciation that appears before a preceding punctuation mark within the same reversed virgules, or from a pronunciation for another spelling that precedes in the same or another entry.

¹*sa·line* \'sā,lēn, -līn\ [substitute \'sā\ for the hyphen]
cod·i·fy \'kädəˌfī, 'kōd-\ [substitute \əˌfī\ for the hyphen]
sen·a·to·ri·al \ˌsenəˈtōrēəl, -tȯr-\ [substitute \ˌsenəˈ\ for the first hyphen and \ēəl\ for the second]
anal·y·sis \ə'naləsəs\ *n, pl analy·ses* \-əˌsēz\ [substitute \ə'nal\ for the hyphen]

¹*or·gan·ic* \(')ȯ(r)ˈganik, -nēk\ . . .
²*organic* \"\ . . .
or·gan·i·cal \-nȧkəl, -nēk-\ . . .
or·gan·i·cal·ly \-k(ə)lē, -li\ [for the first hyphen at *organical* substitute \(')ȯ(r)ˈga\ from ¹*organic;* for the first hyphen at *organically* substitute \(')ȯ(r)ˈganə, -nē\ from ¹*organic* and *organical*]

We usually repeat something from the preceding pronunciation to indicate where in this pronunciation that which is different in the following pronunciation is to serve as a replacement. Often both something to the left and something to the right of the variant part is repeated. Thus in \'sāˌlēn, -līn\ the repeated \l\ and \n\ show that \ī\ may replace the \ē\ between those two characters. A locator repeated may be something other than a sound symbol, as a stress mark or a parenthesis.

per·sist \pə(r)'sist *also* -'zi-\
cre·do \'krē(ˌ)dō, 'krā(-\

When we use a consonantal locator on one side of a vowel variant and no locator on the other side, it is to be understood that the vowel adjacent to the locator in a following pronunciation replaces the vowel adjacent to the locator in a preceding pronunciation and is not inserted after that vowel. Thus in \'kōdəˌsēz, -ädˌ-\ for *codices* at *codex*, \-ädˌ-\ is to be read \'kädˌ-\ not \'kōädˌ-\.

Variants of the vowel of a monosyllable or of a sound whose symbolization differs from that of the variant in that one has a diacritic and the other does not or has a different diacritic are sometimes shown without a locator on either side.

bask \'bask, -aa(ə)-,-ai-,-å-\

broomy \'brümē, -u̇-\

hu·chen \'hükən, -k̲-\

Printing the last three variants for *bask* without spaces between is merely a space-saving device that we often employ when two or more variants of each other are printed in succession.

If no hyphen or vertical bar appears at the beginning of a pronunciation, the pronunciation for the first part of the word is complete and nothing is to be supplied ahead of what is shown; if no hyphen or vertical bar appears at the end of a pronunciation, the pronunciation for the last part of the word is complete and nothing is to be supplied at the end of what is shown.

¹*good-bye or good-by* \gu̇d'bī, gəd'bī, gə'bī, 'bī\ [the last variant, \'bī\, is a pronunciation for the entire word and not for only the part *bye* or *by*.]
²*pretty* \. . ., *before 'near' often* 'průt *or* 'prit\ [\ē\ or \i\ is not to be supplied at the end of the last two variants. The pronunciations intended are \průtni(ə)r\, etc.]

A user who is familiar with the pronunciation practices of the preceding edition of this work should observe that the giving of variants differs in the two in that in this book no attempt is made to always have a variant begin at a syllable beginning and end at a syllable ending.

inflected forms, division of when no division is shown for an inflected form, a form with zero inflection or a form inflected by the addition of an ending that does not add a syllable may be divided at any point where a division is shown in the inflected base:

²*mul·let* → pl *mul·let* or *mul·lets*
in·ter·vene → *in·ter·vened* → *in·ter·venes*

If the ending adds a syllable and the spelling of the base does not change, a division may be made between the two components, as well as at any point at which a division is shown in the base:

church → *church·es*
con·strain → *con·strained* → *con·strain·ing* → *con·strains*
ap·proach → *ap·proached* → *ap·proach·ing* → *ap·proach·es*
re·tort → *re·tort·ed* → *re·tort·ing* → *re·torts*
²*stout* → *stout·er* → *stout·est*

In a syllable-increased form in which the final consonant of the inflectional base is doubled, a division is made between the doubled consonants:

re·but → *re·but·ted* → *re·but·ting* → *re·buts*

When both of two identical consonants immediately preceding a syllable-increasing ending belong to the inflectional base, a division is made after the second consonant:

bluff·ing

For variants like *conn/con* a syllable-increased form can be divided in either of two ways:

conn also *con, conn·ing* or *con·ning*

In a syllable-increased form in which a final *e* of the base is dropped before the ending, a division is made between the letter that preceded the *e* and the ending:

rate → *rat·ed* → *rat·ing*
glue → *glu·ing*
plague → *plagu·ing*
pique → *piqu·ing*
gro·tesque → *gro·tesqu·er* → *gro·tesqu·est*

In syllable-increased forms like those in the last three lines, in which *gu* or *qu*, with *u* silent, appears immediately before the ending, some prefer to divide immediately before the *g* or *q* if it is not immediately preceded by a short vowel or, in the case of *g*, by *n* (*haran·guing* would suggest the substandard pronunciation \hə'raŋgiŋ\):

pi·quing
pla·guing
grotes·quer

For plurals identical in form with the singular, or formed by adding *-s* or *-es*, usually neither pronunciation nor division is shown. For other plurals pronunciation and division are shown, except that (1) divisions common to both plural and singular are usually omitted and (2) the pronunciation and division of the last part of a compound whose last part is an independent English word must usually be sought at the entry for the independent word. The last or the only centered period in a plural is the last point at which a division should be made in it:

ep·i·the·li·um → pl *epithe·lia*

The plural may be divided like the singular except that no division should be made after that between the *e* and *l*.

The centered period between two consecutive vowels in the plural supersedes a differently placed period between the same two vowels in the singular. In *ge·nus*, pl *gen·era* a division is not to be understood between the *e* and *n* of the plural as well as between the *n* and *e*. It is true, as explained in the section on "Divisions in Boldface Entry Words", that divisions such as *ge·nera* do occur, especially in British publications, but our policy is to show only one division between two consecutive vowels. A plural of the type not needing division and pronunciation does have pronunciation when it is the first variant plural (as at ²*virtuoso* where *virtuosos* is first and *virtuo·si* second). When a plural of this type is the second variant plural, pronunciation and division are omitted (as at *tibia* where *tibi·ae* is first and *tibias* second).

inflected forms, pronunciation of The pronunciation of any inflected forms not pronounced is the pronunciation shown at the entry for the inflectional base plus the pronunciation or one of the pronunciations shown for the inflectional ending. These ending entries are, for nouns, ¹-S, ¹-ES; for verbs, ¹-ED, ¹-ING, ³-S, ²-ES, ²-EST, ¹-ETH; for adjectives, ¹-ER, ¹-EST. The definitions at some of these contain information that will facilitate the ascertainment of the pronunciation for the entire word.

-ing in vocabulary words formed by attaching this ending to a verb, usually no pronunciation is shown, whether the inflected form is a main entry or is a run-on entry, if the pronunciation of that part of the word preceding the *-ing* is the same as the pronunciation of the base verb. When such is not the case, usually the only pronunciation shown for the *-ing* is \-iŋ\ or, for common words entered with hanging indention, \-iŋ, -ēŋ\. It is to be understood, however, that in some dialects or under some circumstances the *-ing* may be otherwise pronounced. See the entry ¹-ING in the vocabulary for a detailed list of variants.

\iŋ when stressed, as in *sing, forefinger*, \ēŋ\ and perhaps less often \eŋ\ are variants especially in the southern U.S. These variants are not shown. When unstressed, as in *running*, \ēŋ\ is a frequent variant and is shown for words that are common.

\ir\, \iər\, \iə in words of the type of *inferior, hear, pierce*, variants occur that are not shown in the vocabulary or that are not shown for uncommon words.

Words of the type of *inferior* are shown in the vocabulary as containing the sequence \ir\ followed by a vowel. In the deep South they may contain \ēr\ instead of \ir\, and the \ēr\ variant is to be understood for uncommon words for which it is not shown. In southern British speech all words of this type usually have \ə\ between the \i\ and \r\, and some may be pronounced with \yə̄\ instead of \iə\.

Words of the type of *hear* are shown in the vocabulary as having \ir\ or \iər\ in *R* speech and before a vowel in *–R* speech, and as having \iə\ in *–R* speech elsewhere. Words of the type of *pierce* are shown as having \iə\, with no \r\ following, in *–R* speech. In some words of both types \yə̄\ may occur instead of \iə\ in southern

British speech. The same variant occurs in a very few words in which the part of the orthography that answers to \iə\, \yə̄\ in the pronunciation contains no *r*, as in the *thea* fragment of *theater*.*

\iu̇ as in one pronunciation of the *il* in *film, milk*. See section on \l\.

\j as in *j*ug, ba*dge*, agile. Some linguists treat the sound of the italicized letters in the words cited as the sound \d\ followed by the sound \zh\ in the same syllable, others transcribe it with a single symbol.

\k as in *kick*, pa*ch*yderm, ba*cch*ic.

\k̲ as for *ch* in German *siech* and *Buch;* a non-English voiceless fricative sound, made with the tongue in a range of positions from approximately that of the \k\ in English *keep* to that of the \k\ in English *cool* but without closure.

With particular reference to German, it was formerly the usual transcriptional practice to have two symbols for this range of sounds, one symbol for the front varieties and another for the back varieties. It is now common practice, however, to regard a single symbol as adequate to the phonemic transcription of the entire range of sounds, and the symbol \k̲\ is so used in the transcription of the comparatively small number of words for which a full German pronunciation, or something approaching it, is given. Whether or not a single symbol is adequate for transcribing German for Germans, a single symbol suffices in this book, in which any word or phrase borrowed unchanged in spelling from a foreign language is treated as an item occurring in English context. Whatever variety of \k̲\ may come naturally in a particular word to an educated speaker of English addressing another speaker of English is unlikely to seem out of place in English context. In German the use of one symbol instead of two presents the problem that certain pairs of words (very small in number, apparently) which when spoken in isolation are distinguishable are transcriptionally identical (*Pfauchen, pfauchen*, both \'pfau̇k̲ən\ but with a front \k̲\ in the first and a back \k̲\ in the second). If, as it appears may be the case for all except the intervocalic occurrences of \k̲\, a simple set of rules can be drawn up that will fix its front or back position on the basis of phonetic environment alone, an expediential device for transcribing its quality intervocalically is to treat the front variety as syllable-initial, the back variety as syllable-final, and to employ such transcriptions as \'pfau̇·k̲ən\ *Pfauchen*, \'pfau̇k̲·ən\ *pfauchen*, \äk̲·'älis\ *Achelis*.

\ky in at least three coastal areas of the South — Virginia, South Carolina, eastern Texas — a \y\ sound often intrudes between \k\ and certain or all of the members of the vowel series from \ē\ to \ä\. Thus, *card* is often \'kyȧd\ in Charleston. These variants are not shown.

\l as in *leaf, loot, police, allude, feel, fool*. Articulations of \l\ vary widely, from the clear *l* in some pronunciations of *leaf* to the dark *l* of *fool*. In both sounds the tip of the tongue is in contact with the teethridge. For the clear *l* the top of the tongue is convex; for the dark *l* the top of the tongue is concave and at the back is in the articulatory position for \ü\ or a neighboring vowel. The clearest *l* in American speech is not as clear as in some foreign languages, and some phoneticians treat all occurrences of \l\ in the speech of most Americans as dark. The almost invariable practice of all transcribers, whatever their views, is to use only one symbol for all varieties in English. In the U.S. the clearest \l\'s occur in the speech of some Southern speakers, whose pronunciation of the intervocalic \l\ in words like *salad, Alice, willing* contrasts sharply with that of Northern speakers. The difference between the two can be shown by the transcriptions \'sa·lid\, \'a·lis\, \'wi·liŋ\ for the Southern speakers and \'sal·əd\, \'al·əs\, \'wil·ēŋ\ for the Northern. It is possible that \'sau̇l·əd\ and \'au̇l·əs\ (in which \a\ is the vowel of *apt*) would be proper transcriptions for the dark *l* articulations of the first two words and that *Alice* and *owl us* would be rhymes with some speakers. Such transcriptions have not been shown in this book.

When the vowel articulation preceding an \l\ is one that pulls the back of the tongue forward of the dark *l* articulatory position, a very clear \ə\ may result while the tongue is in transition between the two positions. Words like *ale, eel*, and *oil*, in which the last vowel represented by the spelling is front, often have as much of an \ə\ as *betrayal, perigeal*, or *loyal*, especially when a pause or a consonant follows. Before a pause or a consonant, pairs like *reel : ideal, trail : betrayal, vile : vial, oil : royal* may be exact rhymes. The pronunciation with epenthetic \ə\ is shown as a variant for such words. The back vowel \u̇\ in a word like *owl* is so far fronted when the first half of the diphthong has the quality of the \a\ in *pat* that a clear \ə\ frequently intrudes, and the variant with \ə\ is shown in this book. Between other back vowels and \l\ the \ə\ has not been shown although the \ə\ sometimes appears after \ü\ when that vowel is fronted by the articulation of a preceding tongue-front consonant, as in *schedule, mule*.

\u̇\ often occurs, in some dialects at least, instead of \l\ before the lip consonants \p\, \b\, \m\, \f\, \v\, and before the back-of-the-tongue consonant \k\, especially when these consonants are word-final — that is, only the back half of the articulation of a dark *l* occurs, the contact between tongue tip and teethridge being absent: *help, bulb, elm, self, twelve, elk*. With some Southern speakers, *help, self*, and *twelve* have nothing whatever corresponding to an *l*.

Less often than in the class of words just mentioned, \u̇\ occurs instead of \l\ when \y\ immediately follows, as in *million, hellion*. The \u̇\ variant is not shown before \y\ in this book.

\lᵊ as in one pronunciation of French *peuple*. Like \ᵊl\, \lᵊ\ is a single sound differing from \ᵊl\ in being voiceless rather than voiced and in not adding an extra syllable, the \pœplᵊ\ pronunciation of *peuple* being a single syllable. The \ᵊ\ after the \l\ is always parenthesized to indicate the usual pronunciation when a vowel-initial word follows without pause. Thus *peuple anglais* is \pœ plän glā\, three syllables, with \pl\ as in French *plaisir*. Compare section on \ᵊ\.

\lch as in *belch, gulch;* sometimes \lsh\ in U.S. speech and more often so in British speech.

-lds usually no pronunciation is shown for noun and verb inflected forms produced by adding *-s* to a base in *-ld*, as *fields, welds*. The pronunciation \l(d)z\ is to be understood.

\lü as in *lute, lewd, clue, ablution, absolute, revolution;* that is, words in which the orthographic representation is not *loo* and which are mostly from Latin and Greek. In words like the first three, the variant \lyü\ (=\lyü\ or \liü\) appears to be frequent in southern British speech but is rare in U.S. speech and is not shown. In words like the last two, in which the \l\ is intervocalic and the sequence \lyü\ can easily be syllabicated \l·yü\ instead of \·lyü\, the variant with \y\ is less rare in the U.S. and is shown after an *also*.

\lʸ as *gli* in Italian *figlio* and *ll* in the Castilian Spanish pronunciation of *olla;* the sound can be approximated by trying to pronounce \l\ while the tip of the tongue is held behind the lower front teeth.

\m as in *maim, hammer, nymph;* the usual articulation of \m\ is with the lips in contact to form a closure but when an \f\ or \v\ sound immediately precedes or follows the closure is made by the lower lip against the upper front teeth, as in *nymph, triumph, triumvir, Hoffman(n)* and the pronunciation \'sevᵊm\ for *seven*.

\mᵊ as in one pronunciation of French *prisme;* \mᵊ\ is a single sound differing from \ᵊm\ in being voiceless rather than voiced and in not adding an extra syllable, the \prēsmᵊ\ or \-ēzmᵊ\ pronunciation of *prisme* being a single syllable. The \ᵊ\ after the \m\ is always parenthesized to indicate the usual pronunciation when a vowel-initial word follows without pause. Thus *prisme oblique* is \prē smȯ blēk\ or \prēz mȯ blēk\, three syllables, with \m\ as in French *smille* or *mille*. Compare section on \ᵊ\.

\n as in *known, manly, enrage, tenth*.

\n̩ indicates that the preceding vowel is pronounced through the nose, that is, with the velum lowered and the nostrils open at the back. Vowels are not infrequently so uttered in American English but the nasality is an accident and a nasal vowel does not function as something different from the same vowel without the nasality. In some languages, however, as French and Portuguese, the difference between a vowel without nasality and the same vowel with nasality may make two different words of two sequences of sounds otherwise identical. French has four nasal vowels and they are often exemplified by the four-word phase *un bon vin blanc* ("a good white wine"), which in our symbols would be transcribed \œ̃ bō̃ vã blä̃\.

In a transcription like \kōō̃t\ at *comte*, in which \ōō\ indicates a sound the same in quality as \ō\ but of greater duration (not a vowel with the quality of *oo* in English *boot*), the diacritic \̃\ applies to both preceding characters.

-nds usually no pronunciation is shown for noun and verb inflected forms produced by adding *-s* to a base in *-nd*, as *friends, sends*. The pronunciation \n(d)z\ is to be understood.

ng see section on \ŋ\.

\nʸ as *gn* in French *agneau* and Italian *bagno* and *ñ* in Spanish *cañón*. The sound can be approximated by trying to pronounce \n\ while the tip of the tongue is held behind the lower front teeth.

\ŋ as in *hang* \'haŋ\, *hanger* \'haŋə(r)\, *anger* \'aŋgə(r)\, *singer* \'siŋə(r)\, *finger* \'fiŋgə(r)\, *linger* \'liŋgə(r)\. The sound of the *ng* in *hang* and of the *n* in *anger* is a single sound not the sound \n\ followed by the sound \g\, although the transcription \ng\ for this single sound is used in some of the smaller members of this series to avoid the use of characters that are not letters of the ordinary English alphabet.

\ō as in *bone, snow, coerce;* \ō\ has a strong tendency to become diphthongal, with \u̇\ as a second element, when it is in a position of emphasis, as when it is word-final, under primary stress, and before a pause. In southern British speech and in some American speech, especially in the Philadelphia area, the diphthongization is more frequent and the first element is often \ə\ or \ə̄\. The symbol \ō\ is to be understood to cover all these variants.

In a group of some fifty words, chiefly monosyllables, and their derivatives, transcribed with \ō\, some New England speakers, chiefly rural, have a vowel that has been described, and that apparently is articulated, in more than one way but that sounds to most ears unaccustomed to it like the vowel of *cut*. At least some New England speakers make homophones of *cut* and *coat*. The users of this vowel constitute only a small fraction of the English-speaking world and appear to be on the decrease, and so this variant is not shown.

In a small area that includes the cities of Charleston and Savannah, words transcribed with \ō\ followed by a consonant often have \ōə\ instead, as in \'kōət\ for *coat*. This variant is not shown.

\ȯ as in *corn, saw, all, cause*. In the southern U.S., there is often a diphthongal variant (not used in this book) for at least all of the key words cited except *corn*. In this variant the first element is much the same as the monophthong that occurs with other speakers in these words and the second element is \u̇\ or even \ü\.

\œ as in French *bœuf*, German *Hölle;* \œ\ can be approximated by pronouncing \e\ with moderately rounded lips.

\œ̄ as in French *feu*, German *Höhle;* \œ̄\ can be approximated by pronouncing \ā\ with strongly rounded lips.

\œⁿ see section on \ⁿ\.

\ȯi as in *coin, boy*. In the southern U.S. and chiefly before a consonant in the same word, the second element is sometimes lost or replaced by \ə\. Random listening for misapprehension of two-morpheme items as one-morpheme and vice versa is not as productive of evidence for these pairs as it is for certain other pairs whose identity is disputed — e.g., for *latter : ladder* and *a name : an aim*. Even for these common items, highly ambiguous contexts are infrequent, and there are no or few words in *-oing* in English and but few in *-awy*. With most Americans speaking at normal tempo occurrences of \ȯ\ followed by \i\ without pause are phonetically identical, regardless of whether the two components belong to the same morpheme or to two. Whether, however, such sequences are to be regarded as one syllable or two is a more difficult matter. But *strawy* and the last part of *destroy* are identical, and *coin* and *boy* are more disyllabic than monosyllabic. In the speech of New York City the first half of the diphthong \ȯi\ is overlong.

In transcriptions of the full German pronunciation of German words, \ȯi\ is used for the vowel sequence of words like *neu*, whose second member in German is usually a lip-rounded vowel more properly transcribed \ȯœ\ or \ȯœ\.

\ō̃ⁿ see section on \ⁿ\.

\ō ō used only in the transcription of words from foreign languages; of long duration and with a quality like that of the *o* in English *coerce*, not like that of *oo* in English *boot*.

\ȯȯ used only in the transcription of words from foreign languages; of long duration and with a quality like that of the *o* in English *sort*, not like that of *oo* in English *foot* or *boot*.

\ō ō̃ⁿ as \ōō\ nasalized, as in French *comte*. See sections on \ōō\ and on \ⁿ\.

\ōr as in *board, boarder, glory;* many speakers have this sequence in their speech only when the \ō\ and the \r\ belong to separate phonemes, as in *pro rata* and the \ə\-less pronunciation of *grower*. With these speakers, in other items \ȯ\ occurs instead of \ō\. For words common in the literary language, both the \ō\ and \ȯ\ variants are shown. For other words, usually only the \ō\ variant is shown and the \ȯ\ variant is to be understood. Thus, only \-ōr-\ is shown at *auctorial* and \-ȯr-\ is to be understood, as can be ascertained

*Daniel Jones, *Outline of English Phonetics*, New York (1956), §442*a*.

by examining the transcription at the entry for a common word (like *editorial*) for which \-ōrēəl\ is the first variant shown; only \-fō(ə)r\ is shown at *gonophore* and \-fȯ(ə)r\ is to be understood, as well as \-fōə\ and \-fȯ(ə)\ for *r*-droppers, as can be seen by examining the transcription for a common word like *semaphore*.

In words like *glory* and *glorious*, in which a vowel follows the \ōr\, the pronunciation of many speakers in the deep South, whose vowel is \ō\, is appreciably different from the pronunciation of others in the South and from that of speakers in other parts of the country who have \ōr\ rather than \ȯr\, in that with the first group the \r\ is more consonantal than with the second group, whose \r\ is in the nature of the second half of a diphthong. The first variant may be transcribed \'glō·ri\, the second and probably more common variant \'glōr·ē, -ōr·i\.

**\ ȯr ** as in *moral*, *horrible*, in which a vowel follows the \r\. Both \ȯr\ and \är\ occur in these words in U. S. speech. \är\ strongly predominates in the South, and is frequent along the Atlantic coast in the North. \är\ strongly predominates in British speech, where the \ä\ is usually somewhat lip-rounded and different from the \ä\ of most U. S. speech. \ȯr\ probably prevails in the U. S. and is shown first for nearly all words for which both variants are shown. For words of this group not common in literary English, usually only the \ȯr\ variant is shown but the \är\ variant is to be understood. For a few such words in which the \r\ is or may be followed by \ō\, as *borrow* and *sorrow*, many have \är\ who have \ȯr\ in other words of the group. The pronunciation for words like *borrow* is shown as \är *also* ȯr\. Dissimilation has been suggested as an explanation of the difference. \är\ is not to be understood for \ȯr\ in words in which the vowel that follows the \r\ is that of a suffix freely addable to English words. \är\ is quite normal for *abhorrence* and *abhorrent*, but if it occurs for *abhorring* or *abhorrer* it probably does so from the analogy of a word like *abhorrence*. The analogy of *horror*, for example, for which \är\ is a normal variant, may sometimes produce \är\ in *abhorrer*.

**\ p ** as in *pay*, *lip*, *upper*.

phonemicity our endeavor has been to make the transcriptions of fully English items phonemic. Because of the inevitability, however, that they will not in every respect agree with every evaluator's ideas of phonemicity, and because we have deliberately not striven for phonemicity in our transcription of certain nonanglicized pronunciations, we enclose our transcriptions in virgules having a slant the opposite of the virgules conventionally employed for phonemic transcription. In the comparatively small number of nonanglicized pronunciations of words from foreign languages that occur in this dictionary of the English language, we have transcribed a variant that is purely allophonic in the foreign language (for example, the [ŋ] variant of \n\ in Spanish and Italian) if the variation is phonemic in English.

plurals see sections on INFLECTED FORMS, DIVISION OF and on INFLECTED FORMS, PRONUNCIATION OF.

present participles many present participles have two pronunciations, one that is the pronunciation of the base verb or of one form of it plus the pronunciation shown in the vocabulary for *-ing*, a second with one syllable less.

[1]flick·er \'flikə(r)\ . . . *flickering* \-k(ə)riŋ\ [i.e., the present participle is \'flikərin\ or \'flikriŋ\]

fat·ten \'fatᵊn\ . . . *fattening* \-t(ᵊ)niŋ\ [i.e., the present participle is \'fatᵊniŋ\ or \'fatniŋ\]

When such a variation occurs, at all but wholly dialect or very rare verbs the present participle is subentered and pronounced. Usually only \-iŋ\ is shown at the end but it is to be understood that other variants of \-iŋ\ may occur; see [1]-ING in the vocabulary. When more than one identically spelled verb is entered the present-participle pronunciation may be shown only for the common one or ones or for the first.

principal parts of verbs see sections on INFLECTED FORMS, DIVISION OF and on INFLECTED FORMS, PRONUNCIATION OF.

punctuation marks variants are usually separated by a comma in the vocabulary but sometimes by a semicolon. See the paragraph on variants.

-qu-: division of words containing see sections on *-gu-* and on inflected forms, division of.

R used in vocabulary pronunciations and in this "Guide" as a label for the speech of those who always have the sound \r\ before a consonant or pause when *r* or *rr* in the spelling provides justification, except for occasional loss by dissimilation as in the first syllable of *surprise*. The term "*r*-keeper" has been used in a few places for a speaker of this type of speech, to supply the need for an antonym of "*r*-dropper".

−R used in vocabulary pronunciations and in this "Guide" as a label for the speech of those who have no \r\ sound before a consonant or pause. Our use of this label ignores speakers who in this position sometimes have \r\ and sometimes do not in the same class of words, or who usually have \r\ only in a limited number of classes from which educated usage sanctions its omission. Thus some speakers usually have \r\ before consonant or pause only in syllables of the type of *spurn* or *spur*. Speakers whose omission of \r\ is maximal and those whose omission is only partial are both known as "*r*-droppers" but in this "Guide" the term is restricted to the former.

**\ r ** as in *rid*, *arouse*, *merry* as pronounced by all speakers of standard English, and as in one pronunciation of *carbarn*, *lizard*, *murder*.

Words such as the last three are not uniformly pronounced. Most Americans have for these *r*'s a sound which, though it may usually differ appreciably from the prevocalic second sound in *crow*, is distinct from any other sound in the language and can be symbolized by \r\. The \r\ and the vowel sound that answers to a letter preceding the *r* in the orthography may be articulated simultaneously, as in *purr* and perhaps also in *par*, and some transcribers prefer a single symbol for the double articulation. Favoring the use of \r\ preceded by a vowel symbol, however, is the fact that the articulations, usually or often simultaneous, may alternatively be successive, particularly under emphasis, and that the two-symbol transcription parallels the transcription for items like *dear*, whose corresponding articulations are only or usually successive. Other speakers (as in the southeastern United States, eastern New England, New York City, and southern England) with varying degrees of regularity do not make in words like *carbarn*, *lizard*, *murder* the articulation that we transcribe \r\. The sum total of what they do instead is commonly called *r*-dropping, a term that is misleading to the extent that it may suggest that syllables in which some have \r\ and some do not are identical except that with the latter one member of a linear series has been removed, with consequent durational shortening. Trying to gauge the comparative duration of what *R* and *−R* speakers respectively say for what is between the \k\ and \d\ of *card* runs into complications. A vowel of the quality of that in *card*, if it occurs and is of substantially the same quality in the speech of both in items in which the spelling does not have *r*, may not be of the same duration in the two dialects. Further, it may be difficult or impossible to dissociate the vowel and the \r\ in *R* speech: the \r\ may be simultaneous with the whole or the last part of the vowel, or may be initiated after the vowel begins and continue after the vowel ends. In most classes of words with postvocalic *r* in the orthography things happen in the pronunciation that make these words as distinct from maximally similar words spelled without *r* as in *R* speech. The relationships in *−R* speech between the vowels used for items containing postvocalic *r* in the spelling and the vowels used for items not containing such an *r* are:

(1) The pronunciation of a spelling item containing the letter *r* may be identical with the pronunciation of an item not containing *r:*

tort and *taut* may be identical, with [ȯ] or [ȯȯ] (long [ȯ]) or [ȯə] for both *or* and *au*. *Card* and *cod* are often identical (as in the speech of New York City), with [ää] for both *ar* and *o*, [ää] occurring for the latter because of the tendency of certain final consonants, as voiced stops, to lengthen a preceding vowel. The consonants that when word-final tend to lengthen a preceding vowel and to produce such leveling are \b\, \d\, \g\, \j\, \m\, \n\, \sh\. Although published statements on *−R* speech take little note of the possible leveling of *ar* and *o* as in *cart* and *cot* for the opposite reason that the vowel for the *r*-containing item has the shortness normal for the *o* of an item like *cot*, in certain contexts at least that are most favorable to vowel shortness (distance in syllables from the end of a word as in *parsimony*, stress weaker than primary as in *arcade*) such leveling may occur. To hold down the amount of detail in our vocabulary transcriptions, we have not indicated there the levelings here discussed.

Pairs like *manners : mannas* \-nəz\, *scapulars : scapulas* \-ləz\, *rushers : Russia's* \-shəz\, *goer : Goa* \-ōə\, *Ballard : ballad* \-ləd\ are identical.

The following pairs may be identical, some chiefly in eastern New England and southern British speech, both members containing [ää] or [ȧ] ([ȧ] here, in square brackets, transcribes a vowel that is between \ä\ and \a\ in quality; within reversed virgules in vocabulary transcriptions, \ȧ\ stands for both [ää] and [ȧ]; see the section on \ȧ\): *farther : father*, *spars : spas*, *aren't : aunt*, *arms : alms*, *carve : calve*, *farced : fast*, *parsed : past*.

(2) The pronunciations of both items with and items without *r* in the spelling may contain the same sounds in the same sequence but be distinct because the vowel is longer in the items with *r*.

Pairs like *cart* and *cot* so differ with a high degree of consistency in the South and in New York City, pairs like *card* and *cod* with much less consistency. See (1) preceding.

Pairs like *bird* and *bud* may so differ, and the difference may be shown by the transcriptions ['bəəd] and ['bəd] respectively. The words more often differ in that *bird* has [ə̄] instead of [əə], [ə̄] indicating a vowel differing in quality from that of *bud*. Within reversed virgules in transcriptions, \ə̄\ stands for both [ə̄] and [əə].

(3) Items with and items without orthographic *r* may differ in that in the pronunciation of the former the vowel common to both has \ə\ following: *beard* \'biəd\ : *bid* \'bid\, *erred* \'eəd\ : *Ed* \'ed\, *court* \'kōət\ : *coat* \'kōt\, *poorly* \'půələ̄\ : *pulley* \'půlē\, *sired* \'sīəd\ : *side* \'sīd\, *scour* \'skaůə\ : *scow* \'skaů\, *coir* \'kȯiə\ : *coy* \'kȯi\. Some speakers may frequently have \ȯə\ in words like *tort* but usually only \ȯ\ in words like *taut*. Because of a tendency for English vowels to shorten in proportion to their distance in syllables from the end of a word, it was decided at the beginning of transcription to show \ȯə\ as well as \ȯ\ for *r* words of this class only in the ultima and penultima — e.g., in *norm* and *normal* but not in *normalize* or *normality*. The precedent, however, of words that show \ȯə\ only or alternatively in at least all stressed syllables and of other words that show only \ȯ\ in all syllables has made for some inconsistency in the transcriptions.

The \ȯə\ of some transcribers and the \ȯȯ\ of others (see 2) may sometimes be merely a difference of interpretation of the same phonetic entity. We do not show a transcription \ȯə\ for words of the type *taut*, *law*. For *−R* dialects in which *tort* and *taut* are both \'tȯət\ the variant \ȯ\ should be regarded as having the value \ȯə\. Some transcribers might regard the entity transcribed \ää\ in (1) as in pairs like *card : cod*, *cart : cot*, as \äə\ instead.

The Middle Atlantic vowel symbolized \aa\ is often followed by \ə\ in monosyllables or in the last syllable of words without *r* in the spelling, with leveling of pairs like *paired : pad*, as indicated by the variants \'paəə\ at *pair* and \'paa(ə)d\ at *pad*.

In drawled speech, especially common in the South but not here transcribed, the vowel \ə\ frequently occurs between certain vowels and a following consonant, as in \'biəd\ for *bid*. Whether pairs like *beard : bid* are leveled in the South and if so to what extent is a question that needs further investigation.

(4) An item containing *r* may differ in *−R* pronunciation from all items not containing *r* in that a vowel is used for the *r* item that lacks \r\ quality and that is different from any other the speaker uses. Thus the vowel \ə̄\ is limited to words like *bird*, *German*, except as it may occur as a replacement for \œ\, \œ̄\, \œœ\, \œœ̄\ in words originating in a foreign language, as *Goebbels*, *Goethe*. The diphthong \əi\ is used for the *ir* of *bird* by many speakers in the New York City area and in the deep South.

(5) The speech of some is partly *−R* and partly *R*. Speakers whose speech habits were formed near a boundary between *−R* and *R* areas sometimes have and sometimes lack \r\ in words of the same class (*card*, *cart*, *hearth*) or even in the same word. Many speakers have in words of the class *bird*, *dirt*, *mirth* the same pronunciation as *R* speakers — \ər\ — but a basically *−R* pronunciation in other classes of words.

What happens before a vowel in *−R* speech to a word in which \r\ is the last symbol shown in transcriptions for *R* speech needs some discussion.

When before an initial vowel in a following word there is a pause whose correlate in the written language is a punctuation mark, there usually is no \r\ at the end of a preceding word when there would be no \r\ if a consonant followed: *Why should I care? Others don't.*

When there is no pause between two such words, *−R* speech may have an \r\ or may not: *a door opened*. When there is no \r\ a glottal stop may occur between the two words. Such a glottal stop is not transcribed in this dictionary.

When the vowel that follows is a suffix or the first sound of a suffix, \r\ regularly occurs in all standard *−R* speech: *starry*, *starring*.

A word like *dear* is not pronounced with an \r\ at the end in *−R* speech when a consonant or pause follows ("*dear friend*", "*Dear? Eighty dollars!*"), but is often pronounced with an \r\ when a vowel word follows without pause (*dear experience*). A word like *idea* also is not pronounced with an \r\ when a consonant or pause follows, but like *dear* frequently does have an \r\ before a closely following vowel with many speakers who pronounce an \r\ in *dear* in the same situation, in spite of the fact that *idea* has no *r* in the orthography. Such an \r\, called "intrusive *r*", is frequent in the northeastern United States and southern England but is rare or nonexistent in the southern United States. It usually follows _ə\, \ȯ\, \ȧ\, or \ä\ and may occur before a vowel in a following word or, perhaps less often and with greater deprecation from some listeners, before a suffixed vowel: *idea of importance*, *law and order*, *Omaha and Lincoln*, *drawing*, *withdrawal*, *sol-faing*. Our transcriptions have taken notice of intrusive *r* probably only at *idea*, where the variant with \r\ was mentioned

both because it seemed a distortion to omit it from a complement of variants so sizable and because *idea* has come to be regarded as something of a shibboleth for the occurrence of intrusive *r*. Two kinds of parenthesizing of an \r\ at the end of a transcription will be found: "(r)", with a parenthesis on each side, and "(r", with no closing parenthesis:

dod·der \'dädə(r)\
bar \'bär, 'bä(r\

In transcriptions with two parentheses the form with r is the *R* pronunciation and in some environments the *–R* pronunciation also, the form without r is the *–R* pronunciation in other environments. In that fraction of a transcription that follows a comma or semicolon and that ends with r preceded but not followed by a parenthesis, the form with as well as the form without r is limited to *–R* speech (as \'bȧr\ as well as \'bä\); the form preceding the comma or semicolon (as \'bär\) is the *R* pronunciation and with *–R* speakers whose \ȧ\ is to be construed as [ää] is alternative to [ää] before a vowel.

In words that rhyme with *spur* and are common enough to call for maximum variant coverage, the *R* and *–R* pronunciations are labeled.

In a pronunciation like that at

fear \'fi(ə)r, -iə\

\'fi(ə)r\ is the *R* pronunciation in all environments and the *–R* pronunciation in some, \'fiə\ is the *–R* pronunciation in other environments.

To provide a degree of clarification of the pronunciations of such words impossible in most of our transcriptions, to enable the consultant to be sure of our intent as to the pronunciation of inflected forms not transcribed, and to enable the consultant to supply the *–R* pronunciation of uncommon words for which that pronunciation is not shown, we transcribe in detail below the infinitive, past, and present participle of one verb of each of the classes into which verbs are divisible on the basis of the pronunciation of the last syllable.

fear \R, *–R+suffixal vowel, some –R+following-word vowel* 'fir, 'fiər; *–R+consonant or pause, some –R+following-word vowel* 'fiə\ *feared* \R 'fi(ə)rd, *–R* 'fiəd\ *fearing* \R & *–R* 'fi(ə)riŋ\ (the greater the stress or emphasis the greater the likelihood of \-iər(-)\ rather than \-ir(-)\)

bare \R, *–R+suffixal vowel, some –R+following-word vowel* 'bar, 'ber, 'baar, 'baər, 'beər, 'baaər; *–R+consonant or pause, some –R+following-word vowel* 'baə, 'beə, 'baaə\ *bared* \R 'ba(ə)rd, 'be(ə)rd, 'baa(ə)rd, *–R* 'baəd, 'beəd, 'baaəd\ *bearing* \R & *–R* 'ba(ə)riŋ, 'be(ə)riŋ, 'baa(ə)riŋ\

bar \R 'bär; *–R+consonant or pause, some –R+following-word vowel* 'bȧ; *some –R+suffixal vowel, some –R+following-word vowel* 'bȧr; *some –R+suffixal or following-word vowel* 'bär (*with some speakers whose* 'bȧ = 'bää)\ *barred* \R 'bärd, *–R* 'bȧd\ *barring* \R 'bȧriŋ, *–R* 'bäriŋ *or* 'bäriŋ\

spur \R+*consonant* 'spər, *+vowel* 'spər·; *–R+consonant or pause* 'spə̄, *+suffixal vowel* 'spər· *also* 'spə̄r, *+following-word vowel* 'spər· *or* 'spə̄ *also* 'spə̄r\ *spurred* \R 'spərd, *–R* 'spə̄d\ *spurring* \R 'spər·iŋ, *–R* 'spər·iŋ *also* 'spə̄riŋ\ (the centered period means that only one of the two variants that occur for the *urr* of a word like *hurry* occurs in *spurring;* see the section on \ˌər\; the variants \ər·\, \ə̄r\ differ in that although both have substantially the same two articulations the articulations are simultaneous or overlapping for \ər·\ but consecutive for \ə̄r\, the latter being of greater duration than the former)

dodder \R, *–R+suffixal vowel, some –R+following-word vowel* 'dädər; *–R+consonant or pause, some –R+following-word vowel* 'dädə\ *doddered* \R 'dädərd, *–R* 'dädəd\ *doddering* \R & *–R* 'däd(ə)riŋ\ (in most words of this class, with unstressed final syllable, a variation occurs for the present participle that it is more convenient to record at the subentry for that form)

war, warred, warring *as for variants with* ȯ *at* STORE *below*\

store \R, *–R+suffixal vowel, some –R+following-word vowel* 'stōr, 'stōər, 'stȯr, 'stȯər; *–R+consonant or pause, some –R+following-word vowel* 'stōə, 'stȯ, 'stȯə\ *stored* \R 'stō(ə)rd, 'stȯ(ə)rd, *–R* 'stȯ(ə)d\ *storing* \R & *–R* 'stō(ə)riŋ, 'stȯ(ə)riŋ\

tour \R, *–R+suffixal vowel, some –R+following-word vowel* 'tůr, 'tůər; *–R+consonant or pause, some –R+following-word vowel* 'tůə\ *toured* \R 'tů(ə)rd, *–R* 'tůəd\ *touring* \R & *–R* 'tů(ə)riŋ\

tire \R, *–R+suffixal vowel, some –R+following-word vowel* 'tīr, 'tīər; *–R+consonant or pause, some –R+following-word vowel* 'tīə\ *tired* \R 'tī(ə)rd, *–R* 'tīəd\ *tiring* \R & *–R* 'tī(ə)riŋ\

tower \R, *–R+suffixal vowel, some –R+following-word vowel* 'taůr, 'taůər; *–R + consonant or pause, some –R+following-word vowel* 'taůə\ *towered* \R 'taů(ə)rd, *–R* 'taůəd\ *towering* \R & *–R* 'taů(ə)riŋ\

\ r(•) see \ə·r, ər·\ and \r\. Words that rhyme with *stir* and that are not common often have \r(·)\ as the final items in their transcriptions, as *knur* \'nər(·)\. The parenthesized centered period means that before a following vowel such words do not have one of the two pronunciations that are common in standard speech for the *urr* of *hurry*. For the full range of pronunciations that are heard for a word like *knur* see \r\ in this "Guide" or the pronunciation of rhyming words in the vocabulary.

**\ r ə ** as in one pronunciation of French *lustre*. \rᵊ\ is a single voiceless sound that does not add an extra syllable, the \lœstrᵊ\ pronunciation of *lustre* being a single syllable. The \ᵊ\ after the \r\ is always parenthesized to indicate the usual pronunciation when a vowel-initial word follows without pause. Thus *lustre antique* is \lœ strän tēk\, three syllables, with \str\ as in French *strate*. See section on \ᵊ\.

***r*-dropper** see section headed *–R*.

***r*-keeper** see section headed *R*.

**\ rr ** in some languages, as Spanish, the difference between a trilled *r* (made with two or more taps of the tongue) and a single-tap *r* is phonemic, distinguishing words otherwise identical. In transcriptions of the Spanish pronunciation of words borrowed from the Spanish \rr\ has been used for the trilled *r*. For languages which have a trilled *r* only or in which the difference between two varieties is of no significance, \r\ alone is adequate.

**\ rü ** as in *rude, peruse, verruca;* that is, words in which the orthographic representation is not *roo* and that are mostly from Latin and Greek. The variant \ryü\ or \riü\ occurs in such words to a very limited extent in U.S. speech and so is not shown for any of the words listed above. Occasionally when \'rü\ and _r(y)ə\ are gradational variants (as in *garrulity, garrulous*), the \ryü\ variant may be less limited in its extent and then is shown.

**\ s ** as in *so, less, lesser*.

On the showing of \z\ and \s\ variants for the *s* of words like *abstain, teamster, instigate* (in which a voiced consonant precedes and a voiceless sound follows), see the section on \z\.

sandhi see the vocabulary definition. Only to a very limited extent is account taken in vocabulary pronunciations of the variations that occur at the beginning of words because of the nature of the last sound of a preceding word, or of the variations that occur at the end of words because of the nature of the first sound of a following word. In common words whose last sound is \t\ when the word is pronounced in isolation, we record that before vowels \d·\ usually occurs instead, as at *complete*. At *and* and *you* we record variations that these words undergo as a result of environment. At *'em* we record that a preceding word ordinarily \v\-final may before \ᵊm\ have \b\ instead of \v\. We do not, however, record at words whose final sound is shown as \s\ or \z\ that instead the sound is usually \sh\ or \zh\ respectively when a word following without pause begins with \sh\, \y\, or \zh\, as in *horseshoe, the pace you've set, the size you want, this gendarme*. We do not record at words whose first sound is shown as \b\, \d\, or \g\ that when a word ending in \s\ precedes without pause these three stops may not differ in pronunciation from the stops respectively transcribed \p\, \t\, and \k\ in *spy, stay, sky*, with frequent homophony of such pairs as *this buy : the spy, this day : the stay, this guy : the sky* (compare our transcriptions at *disband, disdain*, and *disguise*). We do not record at words shown as having a given consonant at the end of an unstressed final syllable and at words shown as having the same consonant as their first sound that when such a consonant-final word precedes such a consonant-initial word without pause often only one consonant is articulated, with homophony of such pairs as *Asian nights : Asia nights*. We do not record at words shown as beginning with unstressed \ə-\ or \il-\, \əm-\ or \im-\, \ən-\ or \in-\ that when certain consonants precede without pause some of the words of the first group may begin \ᵊl-\ instead (as in *not allowed*), some of the words of the second group may begin \ᵊm-\ instead (as in *the help employed*), and some of the words of the third group may begin \ᵊn-\, \ᵊm-\, or \ᵊŋ\ instead (as in *good encyclopedia, stop entirely*, and *dog encountered* respectively). These sandhi variants that we omit from vocabulary entries are more satisfactorily covered by being cataloged in a discussion of phonetics. Most of them happen automatically and usually without any awareness of the speaker that he is not using the pronunciations that dictionary vocabularies usually limit themselves to.

**\ sch ** as in *mischief, exhaustion*. Many transcribe only \sch\ in such words but a sequence whose first member is \sh\ rather than \s\, or at least whose first member seems to be closer to \sh\ than to \s\, is frequent when the vowel that precedes is front and is as high as \e\, as in *mischief, question*, the tongue position for a vowel of this height being closer to the tongue position for \sh\ than for \s\. After other vowels, whose tongue position is less conducive to \sh\, that consonant is less frequent and is not shown as a variant in the vocabulary, as at *bastion, combustion, exhaustion*.

Scottish see section on foreign words.

semicolon a semicolon rather than a comma sometimes separates variant pronunciations. A semicolon does not mean that what follows it is less acceptable or less frequent than what precedes it. It is in general used as a safeguard against regarding a variant or a label as applicable to an item or a part of an item following the semicolon. Examples:

adversary \R 'advə(r)ˌserē, *–R* -və,s-; -ri\ (if a comma had been used instead of the semicolon, the meaning would be that the variant -ri is limited to *–R* speech)

cayuga \kē'ügə, 'kyü-; kā'(y)ü-,kī'(y)ü-, *attrib* (')=ˌ=\ [the *attrib* (')=ˌ== does not apply to anything before the semicolon]

aficionada \əˌfisēə'nädə, əˌfēsēə'-,əˌfishə'-, aˌf-, -ädə; -ˌfēthēə'näthə, -nä-\ (such variants as \i\, \s\, and \sh\ are unlikely when the last consonant in the word is th)

luxembourg or *luxemburg* \'lůksəmˌbůrg, -bůəg *also* 'lük- *or* -ˌbərg *or* -ˌbōg *or* -ˌbəig; 'ləksəm,bərg, -bōg, -ˌbəig *also* -bůrg *or* -bůəg\ (the label *also* does not apply to 'ləksəm,bərg, which is probably as frequent as the 'lůk- variant; and construing the *also* to apply to the last four final-syllable variants would produce a contradiction with the first part of the pronunciation. Use of the semicolon facilitates the presentation of the relationship between the vowel quality of the first and final syllables)

**\ sh ** as in *shy, dish, sure, mission*. \sh\ is a single sound, not two, and has in it no \s\ sound or \h\ sound.

**\ shch ** see section on \sch\.

-sia, -sian as in *magnesia, euthanasia, Andalusian*. For many words ending in *-sia* or *-sian* as many as ten variants occur: \-zhə(n), -zhēə(n), -shə(n), -shēə(n), *chiefly Brit* -ziə(n), -zyə(n), -zhyə(n), -siə(n), -syə(n), -shyə(n)\. We do not show this range of variants at any entry in the vocabulary. For common words for which we have records we limit the transcriptions to the variants that appear to be most frequent in American speech, and for uncommon words we often show \-zh(ē)ə\ as the two variants that an averaging of the records of commoner words suggests as most likely.

stress marks see 2.2 in "Explanatory Notes"; on the placement of stress marks, see "Divisions in Respelled Pronunciations"; the mark ˌ is treated in a separate part of the "Guide". The brief discussion of stress in "Explanatory Notes", while true as far as it goes, omits some details. Actually, words like *beneficial* (vocabulary stress marking \ˌ=='=\), *fictitious* (vocabulary stress marking \(')='=\), and *campaign* (vocabulary stress marking \(')='\) undergo an even wider variation of stress than "Explanatory Notes" shows. Thus *beneficial* may also be \'==ˌ==\ (as in *Beneficial though it is . . .*) or \ˌ==ˌ==\ (as in *beneficial diet*), *fictitious* may also be \'=ˌ==\ or \ˌ=ˌ==\ (as in *fictitious story*), and *campaign* may be \='=\ (as in *a hard campaign*), \'=ˌ=\, \ˌ='=\, or \ˌ=ˌ=\ (as in *campaign promises*).

A high percentage of adjectives traditionally transcribed with a primary stress as the last of two or more stresses (as *beneficial, scrophulariaceous*), and many adjectives traditionally transcribed with a primary stress on the second syllable but no stress on the first (as *fictitious, magnanimous, dissociative*) are marked in the vocabulary with the indicators of variation of stress. (Two successive primary stresses were mentioned as a possible stress variant for *beneficial;* three successive primaries seem unlikely but three successive secondaries may easily occur, as in the fourth word of *one of the scrophulariaceous herbs*.) A high percentage of words belonging to other parts of speech and traditionally transcribed with two or more stresses the last of which is a primary on the last syllable (as *campaign, acquiesce, catamaran*) are transcribed with the markings for stress variation because of the frequency with which primary stress recedes in them or is reduced to secondary when another word follows without pause (*acquiesce readily, catamaran sailing*). It is possibly a safe generalization to say that there is no word having two or more stresses the last of which is primary when the word is pronounced in isolation that does not in some contexts undergo recession or reduction of the last stress, whatever the part of speech and whichever the syllable that bears the last stress. Thus in the item *Smith's explanation, Johnson's explanation, Wilson's explanation — they're all questionable*, probably neither of the two stressed syllables in any of the three words *explanation* would be uttered with primary stress. But such a stress pattern would occur in fewer contexts for a noun that in isolation lacks primary on the ultima than for a noun that possesses it, and our stress marking for *explanation* is \ˌ==='==\.

For two-member compounds the second member of which is an independent English word the vocabulary usually shows only the pronunciation of the first member followed by a plus sign. If ˌ or (') occurs in the transcription of the first member, it is to be understood that the compound

as a whole is subject to stress variation. When in compounds whose pronunciation is shown by the plus-sign formula the second member normally has secondary stress only, the plus sign is followed by ˌ-.

mac·ro·fauna \ˈmakrō+\
mac·ro·prism \ˈmakrō+ˌ-\

Many words for which variable stress is indicated are both adjective and noun. If for such a word that has no stress on the last syllable the adjective entry is first, we usually show the pronunciation of the noun following simply as \"\. If the noun entry is first, we usually show for it a pronunciation in which the only primary stress is the last and show variation of stress for the adjective following by means of stress marks and double hyphens. Thus our pronunciation for ¹*organic*, *adj* is \(ˈ)ȯ(r)ˈganik, -nēk\ and for ²*organic*, *n* is \"\. If ¹*organic* had been the noun instead our pronunciation would have been \ȯ(r)ˈganik, -nēk\ and the pronunciation for ²*organic*, *adj* would have been \(ˈ)=ˈ==\. Showing no stress variation for the noun in such cases is an oversimplification: even a noun without stress on the last syllable does sometimes undergo stress recession but much less often than does the adjective.

The nouns that usually have last-syllable primary stress when pronounced immediately before a pause are shown with the marks for recession of stress. If, in words with last-syllable stress, this stress is often secondary rather than primary before a pause their stress may be indicated by two variants separated by a comma.

¹*av·oir·du·pois* \ˌavə(r)dəˈpȯiz, ˈ==ˌ=\

**\ sü ** as in *sue, suit, assume;* that is, words in which the orthographic representation is not *soo* and that are mostly from Latin and Greek. The variant \syü\ or \siü\ appears to be frequent in southern British speech but is rare in U.S. speech and so is not shown.

superlatives of adjectives see sections on INFLECTED FORMS, DIVISION OF and on INFLECTED FORMS, PRONUNCIATION OF.

syllables see separate section on "Divisions in Boldface Entry Words" and "Divisions in Respelled Pronunciations".

symbol names the terms *bar*, *one-dot*, and *two-dot* can be used with the name of a character in this way: \ā\ is "bar a", \th\ is "bar t-h", \ȯ\ is "one-dot o", \ü\ is "two-dot u". Symbols with no modifier are *plain:* \a\ is "plain a", \i\ is "plain i" because the dot is not a modifier.

**\ t ** as in *tights, attend, Atlantic*. See section on \d·\.

With chiefly substandard speakers in the New York City area the precise phonetic form of the consonant answering to *t* or *tt* between a preceding stressed vowel and a following \ᵊl\ is the glottal stop, as in *title, battle* (symbol, not shown in the transcription of such words in the vocabulary, [ˀ]). In Scotland the glottal stop is used in the same environment, and before an unstressed vowel as in *water, bitter*, by a higher percentage of cultured speakers than in New York City.

In words like *winter, plenty, gentlemen*, in which what corresponds to the *nt* of the spelling is preceded by a stressed vowel and followed by an unstressed vowel or \ᵊl\, the \t\ is either feebly articulated or absent in much American speech, pairs like *winter ; winner* being difficult or impossible to distinguish without the help of context. Certainly the usual American pronunciation is in strong contrast to the usual southern British pronunciation, in which there is a strongly articulated, aspirated, distinctly heard \t\ that probably is to be regarded as the first sound of the syllable to which the unstressed vowel or \ᵊl\ belongs, any \t\ that may occur in the American pronunciation probably being best regarded as belonging to the syllable that contains the \n\. One way of transcribing the difference between the two pronunciations would be \ˈwin(t)·ə(r), ˈwin·tə(r)\. Orthoepic commentary usually decries the absence or weakness of the \t\ in such words but the pronunciation is too widespread in all levels of American speech to be ignored. The \t\-less pronunciation is noticed in the vocabulary only in an occasional word for which multiple variants are shown or from which the absence is regarded as apt to be especially conspicuous, as at *gentleman*, the emphasis on the plural of this word in the formula "Ladies and Gentlemen" at the beginning of an address making the absence quite noticeable. A two-variant pronunciation such as that shown above for *winter* is to be understood in the vocabulary for all words of this class, with the label "÷" preceding the \-n(t)· -\ variant to signify the deprecation of orthoepists.

With chiefly substandard speakers in the New York City area a pronunciation somewhat like the British often occurs, except that the tongue position is further forward, the tip frequently being against the lower front teeth.

**\ th ** as in *thin, ether*. \th\ is a single sound, not two, and has in it no \t\ sound or \h\ sound. The basic difference between \th\ and \t͟h\ is that the first is pronounced without and the second with vibration of the vocal cords.

**\ t͟h ** as in *then, either*. \t͟h\ is a single sound, not two, and has in it no \t\ sound or \h\ sound. The basic difference between \th\ and \t͟h\ is that the first is pronounced without and the second with vibration of the vocal cords.

-ths plurals of singulars ending in *-th* pronounced \th\ with vowel preceding and without pronunciation in the vocabulary are to be understood to be \ths\, as *myths*. Plurals with the variants \t͟hz\ and \ths\ (not always in this order) are pronounced in the vocabulary. The \t͟h\ of \t͟hz\ is often weakly articulated; in fact, it may be that in some pronunciations regarded as containing \t͟h\ what is so regarded is an extension of the length of the preceding vowel rather than a consonantal articulation.

**\ u̇ ** this symbol, used in most diacritical alphabets for the sounds following the \f\ of *few* and often for the sounds between the \f\ and \r\ of *fury*, is replaced in this dictionary by \yü\ and \yu̇\, which are not only phonetically more realistic but also transcriptionally more economical in permitting the showing of two variants by parenthesization, as in \ˈn(y)ü\ for *new*.

**\ u̇ ** as in *pull, wood, injurious*. See section on \u̇r\.

\u̇\ is usually shown as the second part or ending position of the diphthong of *loud* but in most articulations a point this high is not reached, the ending position being closer to \o͞o\. Other diphthongs with this ending position occur as variants in certain classes of words in which other speakers pronounce a vowel followed by \l\. See section on \l\.

**\ œ ** as in German *füllen, hübsch;* \œ\ can be approximated by pronouncing \i\ with moderately rounded lips.

**\ œ͞ ** as in French *rue*, German *fühlen;* \œ͞\ can be approximated by pronouncing \ē\ with strongly rounded lips.

**\ ü ** as in *rule, moon, few* \ˈfyü\, *union* \ˈyünyən\. Compare the section on \yü\.

\ü\ plus unstressed vowel in vocabulary pronunciations, \u̇\ if not shown is to be understood as a variant of \ü\ in such position, as in *fluid, gluey, skua*.

\u̇r\, \u̇ər\, \u̇ə in words of the type of *injurious, furious, tour, pure*, variants occur that are not shown in the vocabulary or that are not shown for uncommon words.

Words of the type of *injurious* are shown in the vocabulary as containing the sequence \u̇r\ followed by a vowel. In the deep South they may contain \ür\ instead of \u̇r\, and the \ür\ variant is to be understood for uncommon words for which it is not shown. In southern British speech all words of this type usually have \ə\ between the \u̇\ and \r\ and may have \o͞ər\ as a variant; the most common words may also have \ȯr\ or \ȯər\ as a variant, and for one such word at least (*injurious*) \ər\ is also shown.

Words of the type of *pure* are shown in the vocabulary as having \u̇r\ or \u̇ər\ in *R* speech and before a vowel in *–R* speech, and as having \u̇ə\ in *–R* speech elsewhere. In southern British speech the \ə\ appears to be usually present between \u̇\ and \r\; in all such words a variant \o͞ə(r\ is heard, and the most common words may also have \ȯə(r\ or \ȯ(r\.

V used in the formula "*usu* -ād·+V" as at *wait;* chosen for the formula as being an abbreviation for "vowel" but "+V" is to be interpreted as meaning "+ *vowel or* ᵊl *following without pause*".

**\ v ** as in *vote, level, give*. Under the assimilative influence of a following \ᵊm\, the lip≠teeth sound \v\ may have as a variant the two-lip sound \b\, as in *give 'em, government*. See section on \ᵊm\.

variants see 2.3, 2.4 in "Explanatory Notes". If the consultant knows or has reason to believe that an uncommon word has less than a full complement of the predictable variants that we usually give for common words, he can supply the omitted variants by examining the variants for better-known words that rhyme or the variants for a rhyming part of such words. He will need to observe certain precautions mentioned in this "Guide". The \ȯi\ variant shown at a word of the type of *bird*, for example, does not hold for a word of the type of *preferred*. See \ȯi\.

**\ w ** as in *we, sweep, away*. See sections on \əw\, \hw\.

**\ wʸ ** as *hu* in French *huile* or *u* in French *nuit;* \wʸ\ can be approximated by rounding the lips as for \w\ while the tongue makes the articulation for \y\.

x for words of the type of *exact, exult*, in which the sounds that correspond to the *x* of the spelling are preceded by an unstressed and followed by a stressed vowel, the vocabulary usually shows only the value \gz\ for the *x*. For such words some speakers have \ks\ instead.

**\ y ** as in *yard, yours, European* \ˈyu̇rəˈpēən\, *cue* \ˈkyü\, *union* \ˈyünyən\. See section on \yü\.

**\ y ** not a symbol for a sound but a diacritic signifying a modification of the sound of the preceding symbol, the modification consisting of articulating the sound while the tongue is in approximately the position for the sound \y\, with the tip back of the lower front teeth. See the sections on \lʸ\, \nʸ\, \wʸ\.

Frequently at the end of the articulation of \nʸ\ or \lʸ\ an independent \y\ sound is heard, without anything else accompanying, [nʸy], [lʸy], but it is usually considered unnecessary to transcribe this off-glide.

The sound \wʸ\ could with equal logic have been symbolized by a full-size y followed by a superior w to denote lip rounding, but \wʸ\ is preferred because \w\ is the usual anglicization, as in \swād\ for *suede*, from a French word pronounced \swʸed\.

**\ yə ** as in *ammunition*. Some transcribers prefer \yu̇\ to \yə\ as the transcription in an unstressed medial syllable of *u* or *eu*. In normal-tempo speech it is difficult to hear the difference between unstressed \yə\ and \yu̇\. A distinct \yu̇\ is probably more common in British speech than in American and is heard in the latter in emphatic or deliberate utterance. In initial syllables, as in *unite* and *uranium*, \yü\, \yu̇\, and \yə\ are all three heard although the vocabulary does not show all three. When such words are pronounced starting from pause, the \yə\ variant is more apt to occur before \r\ than before other consonants, and the vocabulary transcriptions for the initial vowel are not identical for all words.

**\ yü \, \ yu̇ ** these two transcriptions replace the ü of previous editions of this dictionary, \yu̇\ occurring before \r\ as in *European* and \yü\ elsewhere as in *unity*. These two transcriptions not only better display the nature of the sounds but also make it possible to show two pronunciations for a word like *new* simply by parenthesizing, \ˈn(y)ü\, the (y) signifying that *new* may either be pronounced like the *noo-* of *noose* or have between \n\ and \ü\ a sound that does not occur in *noose*. See sections on \lü\, \sü\.

When certain consonants precede in the same syllable the first component may be [i] instead of [y]. In the variety with [y] the second component has greater stress than the first but in the variety with [i] the first component has stress equal to or greater than that of the second. It is not necessary to show in the vocabulary the variant [iü] or [iu̇], which is merely the variety of \yü\ or \yu̇\ that occurs under certain conditions.

See section on \yə\.

**\ z ** as in *zone, freezer, raise*. Most transcribers treat as \s\ the sound of the *s* in words like *abstain, teamster, instigate, redskin, brownstone*, in which a voiced consonant precedes and a voiceless sound follows. But it is doubtful that there is any difference between most utterances of the *-mst-* of *teamster* and the *-m's t-* of *the team's terrific*, of the *-dsk-* of *redskin* and the *-d's k-* of *Red's kin*, of the *-nst-* of *brownstone* and the *-n's t-* of *Brown's tone*, in the second member of which pairs transcribers just as regularly treat the sound of the *s* as \z\. What happens in both *brownstone* and *Brown's tone* when they are identical is probably the same thing that phoneticians agree happens to the last sound of *Brown's* or *brows* when those words have only pause following, as at the end of a sentence: the last sound starts out voiced, by carryover from the voiced sound preceding, but becomes voiceless.

This devoicing might be shown in minute transcription intended primarily for scholars by the symbol \z\ with a small circle underneath, such a circle being widely used by phoneticians for devoicing, or even by a transcription \braůnzstōn\, but for an item like *Brown's* which has at the end the same sequence of voice and voicelessness a plain \z\ alone is usually employed. For items like *abstain, teamster, instigate* we show two variants for the *s*, \z\ and \s\, the latter probably being frequent or usual in emphatic utterance. We provide only stress indications at the vocabulary entries of compounds like *redskin* and *brownstone*, although only \s\ is shown at SKIN and STONE. If transcriptions with sound symbols were shown for such compounds our transcription at REDSKIN would be \ˈredzˌkin, -dˌsk-\. Compare the section on sandhi.

When the preceding voiced consonant is a nasal, when the next vowel is without stress, and when the *s* is definitely \s\ and not \z\, the voiceless stop homorganic with the nasal often occurs parasitically before the \s\: *teamster* \ˈtēmpstə(r)\, *monster* \ˈmäntstə(r)\, *gangster* \ˈgaŋkstə(r)\.

**\ zh ** as in *vision*. \zh\ is a single sound, not two, and has in it no \z\ sound or \h\ sound.

**\ zü ** as in *presume, resume;* that is, words in which the orthographic representation is not *zoo* and which are mostly from Latin and Greek. The variant \zyü\ or \ziü\ appears to be frequent in southern British speech but is rare in U.S. speech and so is not shown.

DIVISIONS IN RESPELLED PRONUNCIATIONS

1. American general dictionaries have for a long time attempted to mark the boundaries of all the syllables in a respelled pronunciation. Many linguists and phoneticians, however, have no certainty as to precisely where these divisions are and sometimes no certainty even as to how many syllables a word has. The three words *gore, goer, Goa* are pronounced alike by many U. S. speakers, and yet it is general practice to treat the first as a monosyllable only and the other two as disyllables only. It has also been general practice to treat a single consonant as being in the following syllable when preceded by a long stressed vowel or an unstressed vowel and as being in the same syllable with a preceding short stressed vowel, although consonantal quality has more to do with syllable boundaries than does vocalic quality.

2. Because of the extremes of opinion with regard to syllable boundaries, whatever course a dictionary adopts will meet with some opposition. Some students maintain that in some languages there is no such thing as a phonetically recognizable boundary between words when they follow one another without pause. Other students of language and probably most laymen believe that if practically any succession of two words is pronounced in isolation, the boundary is determinable from the pronunciation alone, even though a sequence like *a never-ready* may be misapprehended as *an ever-ready* (and vice versa) when the context is ambiguous. The word *adder* originally had an initial *n* whereas *nickname* originally lacked an initial *n*, the respective loss and gain resulting from mistaking the constituents when such words as *a* or *an, my* or *mine* preceded.

3. In most American speech the sound used for the letter *t* varies according to its position in a word. This variance is a basis of our treatment of syllables in the respellings. Thus most Americans would not speak *ten trips/tent rips* or *Kay Tolliver/Kate Oliver* identically. Our treatment does not attempt to cover in full southern British speech in which a *t* is often pronounced the same whether it appears to the left or to the right of a word boundary.

4. In American speech the following consonant sounds when preceded by a stressed vowel usually sound one way when a word boundary is immediately to the left of the corresponding orthographic *t* and another way when the boundary is to the immediate right of the *t:*

\t,d·\ *wry tangle/right angle*
\nt\ *men told/meant old*
\tr\ *stay trite/state right*
\ltr\ *bell trick/belt Rick*
\ntr\ *ten trips/tent rips*
\tw\ *no twill/note Will*
\ltw\ *Hall twin/halt Wynn*
\ntw\ *Doane twin/don't win*
\ty\ *why Tunis/white Eunice* (*when Tunis is* \'tyü-\ and not \'tü-\)
\lty\ *spell Tunis/spelt Eunice*
\nty\ *scan Tunis/scant Eunice*
\tsh(=t·sh)\ *Leete shin*
\ch(=·tsh)\ *Lee chin/Leech Inn*

5. When any consonant except \r\ occurs immediately before any of the preceding sequences except the last, the sequence resulting, if it is not one of those listed above, sounds the same regardless of word boundary. The following sequences sound the same: *black tie/blacked eye, cur stray/curse tray/curst ray, lop twigs/lopped wigs, miff Tunis/miffed Eunice.*

6. When the \l\ or \n\ in the preceding list is syllabic or is preceded by an unstressed vowel, the difference usually heard when a stressed vowel precedes is reduced or may disappear. A complication for the \nt\-plus-vowel sequence is the possibility that a difference heard may be due to complete loss of the \t\ when a word boundary follows rather than to a difference in the syllable placement of the \t\, as in the second item in *flew and told/fluent old.*

7. When any of the sequences in the preceding list susceptible of two syllabifications occurs within a word at a point where there is no boundary between meaningful elements that a speaker may be trying to maintain, the syllabification is usually that which occurs when a *t* is to the right of a word boundary: \t\ instead of \d·\ for the *tt* of *attack*, \n·t\ instead of \nt·\ for the *nt* of *entire*, \·tr\ instead of \t·r\ for the *tr* of *metric*, \·tyü\ instead of \t·yü\ for the *tu* of *mature* (when \y\ is not absent from the word). Exceptions are \d·\, sometimes heard instead of \t\ for the first *t* of *potato;* \t·w\ instead of \·tw\ for the *tw* of *Antwerp* (though \·tw\ possibly occurs sometimes in British speech); \nt·r\, sometimes heard instead of \n·tr\, chiefly in substandard speech for the *ntr* of words like *country* and *contribution.*

8. If in our transcriptions our symbol for the *ch* of *chin* and *each* were \tsh\, in order to make it clear that this \tsh\ differs from the \t·sh\ of *Leete shin* and to be consistent with our use of two differently placed dots in all the other divisionally different items, it would be necessary to use a dot in another position when the sequence is intervocalic (as in *Lee chin/Leech Inn*) and to make a commitment as to the syllable division of these two morpheme-different homophonous pairs, something that we do not do for other such pairs. In that case consistency could have been achieved by removing all pre-\t\ dots.

9. Presumably the sounds represented by the *d* preceding and the *g* following the space in *bad gendarme* (when the speaker's pronunciation of the *g* is \zh\) stand to the sound represented by the *dge* of *badge of honor* as the corresponding parts of *Leete shin/Leech Inn/Lee chin* do, the first being \d·zh\ and the second \j=·dzh\. But words beginning with \zh\ are so rare in English that random listening will yield little or nothing in the way of evidence.

10. In this dictionary the roles of the stress mark and the syllable divider are kept distinct; the stress mark does not simultaneously serve as a syllable divider as in some pronunciation systems. Our stress marks are ' and ,, our syllable divider is ·. For a consonant or for a sequence of consonants preceding a stressed vowel that is not the first vowel in a word, our procedure is as follows: If the consonant or sequence is one that always sounds the same wherever the corresponding word division may be, no divider is used, and the stress mark is placed before the first consonant sound or sequence of consonant sounds that can begin English words that are not mere borrowings: *astrology* \ə'sträləjē\, *mellite* \'me,līt\, *guest rope* \'ge,strōp\, *Rhode Island* \(')rō'dīlənd\, *McCoy* \mə'kȯi\, *hypnosis* \hip'nōsəs\, *agnostic* \ag'nästik\. If, for a given sequence, a difference of word boundary in the orthography is paralleled by a difference in the pronunciation, we indicate for each occurrence of the sequence which of the two pronunciations it has by inserting the syllable divider and placing the stress mark immediately after the divider: *antagonize* \an·'tagə,nīz\, *contrive* \kən·'trīv\, *between* \bə·'twēn\, *solitude* \'sälə·,tyüd\, *patrician* \pə·'trishən\. When the vowel that follows the consonants is without stress, only the divider is used: *metric* \'me·trik\, *matriarch* \'mā·trē,ärk\, *country* \'kən·trē\, *contribution* \,kän·trə'byüshən\. In derivatives formed by adding the suffix *-ry* to an English word ending in *t* immediately preceded by a vowel, *l*, or *n*, the division is sometimes before, sometimes after, the \t\, and no divider is used: *puppetry* \'pəpətrē\.

10.1 The sequence \ntr\ in a word like *country* is sometimes, chiefly in substandard speech, \'kənt·rē\ rather than \'kən·trē\. The \nt·r\ variant is not shown for these.

10.2 For \nt\ followed by an unstressed vowel, both \nt·\ and \n·t\ occur, and no divider has been used in the transcription: *winter* \'wintə(r)\, *bunting* \'bənti ŋ\. The \n·t\ division for these is much less frequent in American than in British speech. In American speech what many hear as \nt·\ is probably often simply \n\, pairs like *winter/winner* probably often being homophonous. \nt\ is often subject to variation in American speech when a vowel with secondary stress follows. There has been some inconsistency in the transcribing of these, and both of the following formulas, which are the same in intent, will be found: *pimento* \pə'ment·(,)ō,-en·(,)tō\, *adventism* \'ad,ven,tizəm\.

10.3 \d\ is one of two single consonants with which the divider is used. When the orthographic correspondent of \d\ is *t(t)*, the \d\ is always followed by the divider: *lattice* \'lad·əs\, *at all* \əd·'ȯl\. When the orthographic correspondent of \d\ is *d(d)*, no divider is used and the \d\ is to be interpreted as transcribing the variation \d·, ·d\: *modest* \'mädəst\, *adopt* \ə'däpt\ (for words like the latter it is to be understood that for the \d·\ variant the stress is on the other side of the \d\). See the section on \d·\.

10.4 \r\ is the other single consonant with which the divider is used. The preceding vowel is always a stressed \ə\. For *hurry* the transcription \'hər·ē\ indicates a pronunciation in which the quality of the \ə\ is strongly affected by the \r\ and the two sounds may be regarded as in the same syllable, as they are in stressed *her* (in fact, the \ə\ and the \r\ may be simultaneously articulated and a single sound). The transcription \'hə·rē\ indicates a pronunciation in which the quality of the \'ə\ is much the same as the quality it has when it precedes any other consonant than \r\. \ə·r\ is probably familiar to some of the many Americans in whose speech it does not normally occur as the pronunciation usually used by circus-sideshow barkers (or by actors enacting the part) for the middle of *Hurry!* (See the section on \ər\.) In transcriptions of words not widely known in the literary language, no divider is used with the \r\, and this is to be interpreted as transcribing the same \ər·, ə·r\ variation: *dhurrie* \'dərē\.

10.5 When stressed \ər\ is followed by a consonant or a pause, the variety that occurs in American speech is the variety heard in stressed *her.* In the transcription of words like *piqueur* \-'kər(·)\, the parentheses mean that the divider is to be dispensed with when a consonant follows, as in transcribing the plural \-'kərz\, but retained when a vowel follows without pause, as in "the piqueur assisted" \-'kər·ə'sistəd\.

10.6 An \r\ within a word preceded by stressed \ō\ and followed by a stressed vowel is placed before, rather than after, the stress mark, as at *dorad* \'dōr,ad\, because in the prevailing pronunciation in the U. S. the division seems definitely to be \ōr·\. The centered period is not used, however, because the \ō·r\ variant is frequent in the deep South. See the section on \ōr\.

10.7 With some British speakers the sequence \tl\, as in *Atlantic*, very definitely sounds as it does at the beginning of a borrowed word like *Tlascala*, but because such a pronunciation of the \tl\ is not often heard in this country, we have transcribed \ət'lantic\. British practice could be shown by either of the two formulas mentioned above, \ət·'lantik, ə·'tl-\ or \ə'tlantik\.

10.8 Two successive identical vowels that are not in the same syllable are separated by a divider: *Alma-Ata* \ˌalmə·əˌtä\. Two successive identical vowel symbols not so separated indicate a same-syllable vowel that is or that may be regarded as of the same quality as the vowel indicated by only one of the symbols but longer: *champion* \'chaampēən\, *feuille* \fœey\. See the section on \aa\.

10.9 In some cases the divider is put to a quite different use, serving merely to make up for deficiencies caused by the use of a digraph for a single sound. Thus, \sh\ is used to represent a single sound in *shoe* but two sounds in *gas house* and *less heroic.* \th\, likewise, is used to transcribe a single sound in *think* but two sounds in *knothole* and *not heroic.* In a transcription of sequences like *gas house* and *knothole*, in which the vowel following the \h\ is stressed, the presence of a stress mark between the two letters is sufficient. When the vowel following the \h\ is unstressed, the centered period needs to be used, as in one of the pronunciations for *imposthume* \ȯm'päs·thəm\.

10.10 It is impracticable to attempt to show, in the transcription of single words, where a stress mark and where and when the divider would occur in connected discourse. Except for final stressed \ər\, this has not been attempted. When only part of an entry has been transcribed because the other part is pronounced at its own alphabetical place, it has usually not been practicable to position the stress mark as it would have been positioned if the entry had been transcribed in full. Thus, the transcription *Bartram oak* is \'bär·trəm-\. If a pronunciation had been shown for the second word, the full respelling would have been \'bär·trə'mōk\, with stress mark before rather than after the \m\. When an entire pronunciation or a part of a pronunciation consists of double hyphens only, full-transcription placement of stress marks is often impossible and the divider has also usually been omitted: *boathook* \'=,=\, *sightworthy* \'=,==\.

PUNCTUATION

The chief marks of punctuation and reference, with their names

The chief uses of the most important punctuation marks are explained in the numbered sections below.

, comma
; semicolon
: colon
. period *or* full stop
— dash *or* em dash
– dash *or* en dash
~ swung dash
? question mark *or* interrogation point
¿? question marks, Spanish
! exclamation point
( ) parentheses *or* curves
[ ] brackets, square
⟨ ⟩ brackets, angle
' *or* ' apostrophe
- hyphen
= *or* ⸗ double hyphen
´ (é) acute accent
` (è) grave accent
^ (ô) *or* ⌒ *or* ~ circumflex
~ (ñ) tilde
¯ (ō) macron
˘ (ŭ) breve
¨ (oö) diaeresis
¸ (ç) cedilla
∧ caret
" " *or* " " quotation marks
« » quotation marks, French
» « *or* ,, " quotation marks, German
' ' *or* ' ' ' quotation marks, single
" *or* " *or* " ditto marks
/ virgule *or* slant
\ reversed virgule
{ *or* } *or* ⁓ brace
. . . *or* * * * *or* —— ellipsis
. . . suspension points
* asterisk
† dagger
‡ double dagger
§ section *or* numbered clause
‖ parallels
¶ *or* ℙ paragraph
☞ index *or* fist
⁂ *or* ⁂ asterism

0.1 Speech consists not merely of sounds but of organized sound sequences that follow various structural patterns and are uttered with significant modifications of pitch and stress and significant pauses. Besides representing the basic sounds of speech, the English writing system accordingly utilizes signs called punctuation marks to separate groups of words and to convey some indication of the varying pitch and volume and especially the pauses in the flow of speech sounds.

0.2 A pause in speech is accompanied by a significant adjustment in the pitch of the voice, which may rise, fall, or remain the same. There may also be an increase or decrease in stress with or without actual cessation of sound. Three principal types of pauses are readily perceptible in English speech:

(1) The fading pause, a falling into silence with a full stop, is marked by a lowering of pitch and decrease of stress until the production of sound ceases. This pause signifies the termination of an utterance and in writing is usually indicated by the period or the semicolon. (2) The rising pause is characterized by an upturn in pitch often combined with a lengthening of word sounds just before the break. This pause is used to set off word groups within utterances, especially whenever there is anticipation of supplementary or explanatory matter to follow, and is usually indicated in writing by a comma or, at the end of a question, by a question mark. (3) The sustained pause occurs whenever there is a break without any change in the pitch of the voice or when the same pitch is continued across a break. This pause is often indicated in writing by a comma, particularly when a rising pause would also be appropriate. The sustained pause is indicated also by such marks as a dash or ellipsis where a person stops speaking without altering the pitch of his voice, as when he is interrupted.

0.3 Much written expression consists of discourse never actually spoken but formulated in the writer's mind and immediately expressed in writing. Somewhat more formal in its structural patterns than actual speech, such written expression is nevertheless a reflection of the spoken language, is itself capable of being spoken, and is therefore punctuated as the written expression of actual speech.

0.4 As will be indicated, punctuation marks are often used in an arbitrary or mechanical manner not directly related to language structure or to patterns of speech sounds. To a considerable extent, however, punctuation may be explained in terms of the structural divisions of speech — sentences, clauses, phrases, and other word groups — and some of the more obvious elements of pitch, stress, and pause that indicate their separation or their relationship.

1. THE PERIOD

1.1 Like a fading pause and full stop in speech, a period usually terminates a sentence that is neither interrogative nor exclamatory ⟨The mountain is 5,000 feet high. If the climbers have a good day, they will reach the top in a few hours. At the summit they will eat the lunch which has been prepared, and then they will start down early enough to reach the bottom before dark.⟩

1.1.1 Utterances terminated by a fading pause do not always have a complete subject-predicate structure. In the context of consecutive speech, however, the meaning of such utterances is entirely clear, and in writing they are usually terminated with a period ⟨"Tell me when you came in." "Just now."⟩ ⟨"Please close the door." "Certainly."⟩

1.1.2 Structurally incomplete or fragmentary elements terminating in a period occur frequently in modern narrative writing and are usually terminated with a period ⟨The sound of artillery through the night. The enemy again. Banging away to keep everyone nervous and awake.⟩

1.2 A period often follows an abbreviation ⟨Reedville, Mass., pop. 879⟩ ⟨cap. or l. c.⟩ ⟨7 a. m.⟩ ⟨30 mins.⟩ ⟨lg. pkg.⟩ ⟨no. 72⟩ ⟨5s. 6d.⟩ ⟨bks. marked o. p.⟩ ⟨dept. bulls.⟩ ⟨50 pp.⟩ ⟨U. S. S. *Wyoming*⟩ ⟨Dr. John H. Doe, 7 Pine St., New York, N. Y.⟩ ⟨Dec. 7, 1941⟩ ⟨Lt. Col. John Doe⟩

1.2.1 Periods do not usually follow abbreviations of compound names of international organizations and government agencies, official abbreviations designating equipment, and a large number of similar compound abbreviations usually written without spaces ⟨NATO⟩ ⟨UN⟩ ⟨UNESCO⟩ ⟨TVA⟩ ⟨VT fuze⟩ ⟨pfc⟩ ⟨EST⟩

1.2.2 Periods usually follow common contractions made by omitting medial letters ⟨secy.⟩ ⟨advt.⟩ ⟨mfg.⟩ ⟨recd.⟩

1.2.3 Some publishers, chiefly British, often do not put a period after *Mr*, *Mrs*, and *Dr* ⟨Dr and Mrs John H. Doe⟩

1.2.4 A period does not follow symbols of chemical elements ⟨*Al*⟩ ⟨*Cu*⟩ ⟨*U 235*⟩

1.2.5 Such terms as 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, 8vo, and 12mo are not abbreviations and do not require a period.

1.2.6 Isolated letters of the alphabet used as designations do not require a period ⟨T square⟩ ⟨A 1⟩ ⟨I beam⟩

1.2.7 After titles of books and articles, after headings, and in display printing, printers usually omit a period at the ends of lines, as well as other punctuation except an essential question mark or an exclamation point.

1.3 A period is necessary before a decimal and between dollars and cents in figures ⟨16.63 ft.⟩ ⟨.32 cal.⟩ ⟨$12.17⟩

1.4 A period may or may not follow a Roman numeral. In particular contexts usage is often quite uniform; thus a period is used after a roman numeral designating a chapter of a book in the Bible ⟨2 Sam. xix. 12⟩ but no period is used after a roman numeral following a personal name ⟨Elizabeth II of England⟩

1.5 Dictionaries use centered periods to indicate division between syllables of words where division is not otherwise indicated by accent marks or hyphens.

2. THE QUESTION MARK

2.1 A question mark usually indicates in writing the incompleteness or anticipation conveyed in speech by any of various intonation patterns and frequently though not exclusively by a rising pause. The word order may be that of a question or a statement ⟨When did he leave?⟩ ⟨You say he never came back?⟩ ⟨An Oxford degree — or was it foreign travel? — lured him to England.⟩

2.1.1 A question mark does not follow an indirect question, which has the intonation pattern and fading pause of a positive statement ⟨They are asking him where he plans to go.⟩

2.1.2 A request expressed in interrogative form for the sake of courtesy usually ends in a period corresponding to the fading pause of a positive statement ⟨Will you kindly fill out this questionnaire and return it to the personnel office.⟩

2.1.3 When used as the terminal mark of a direct quotation, the question mark, as well as the exclamation point, usually takes the place of a comma or period which would otherwise be used at that point in the sentence ⟨After he had affixed the title "What is Progress?" he folded the manuscript of his speech.⟩

2.2 A question mark, usually enclosed in parentheses, often follows arbitrarily after a word, phrase, or date to indicate uncertainty of its accuracy or to mark a gap in available information ⟨Omar Khayyám, Persian poet (?–1123?)⟩

3. THE EXCLAMATION POINT

3.1 An exclamation point follows an expression or statement that is an exclamation and corresponds to a heavy, relatively high-pitched terminal stress in speech ⟨Oh no! Not that!⟩ ⟨I wish he would!⟩ ⟨Do you think we will stand for this any longer!⟩ ⟨Hurry! We need help!⟩

4. THE COMMA

4.0 Of all the marks of punctuation the comma offers the most difficulty in use and the widest range for individual choice. Though often marking rhetorical or elocutionary pauses, the comma is used primarily to separate or to set off in a group. It sometimes distinguishes nonrestrictive modifiers from restrictive modifiers. Since the genus-terms of definitions in this dictionary are intended to be modified only by differentiae that are restrictive in some degree, the use of commas either to separate or to group is severely limited chiefly to units in apposition or in series.

4.1 *Commas That Set Off*. A word, phrase, or clause is often inserted in a sentence to supply explanatory or supplementary information. In speech the rising pause or sometimes the sustained pause sets off such material when it is of relatively minor importance and is not essential to the main idea. In writing commas usually indicate the subordinate status of such matter. These commas always make a pair unless the element set off begins or ends a sentence.

4.1.1 Commas usually set off words, phrases, and other sentence elements that are parenthetical or independent. Items of this sort are contrasting expressions, prefatory exclamations, the name of a person directly addressed, and expressions like *he said* in direct quotations ⟨Work, not words, is what is needed.⟩ ⟨The outcome, though hardly to our liking, is better than expected.⟩ ⟨The animals, nervous and restless, pace interminably in their

cages.〉〈He is often late, to be sure, but we can rely on him in a crisis.〉〈"Listen, John," he said, "drive carefully."〉〈Oh bosh, pay no attention to him (the comma that goes with the comma after *bosh* gives way to the capital *O*).〉

4.1.2 Commas usually set off appositional or modifying words, phrases, or clauses that do not limit or restrict the main idea of a sentence. Such constructions are termed nonrestrictive 〈George, his own brother, is turning against him.〉〈John, whom we saw yesterday, is away today.〉〈His father, dressed in a new gray suit, came early for the ceremony.〉
The second of the pair of commas in the next three gives way to the period that closes the sentence 〈There stood John, smiling quietly to himself.〉〈We leave at 3 o'clock, when the bell rings.〉〈The formation is of great interest to geologists, although most of us would hardly notice it.〉

4.1.2.1 When inserted or appended words, phrases, or clauses are restrictive or essential to the main idea of a statement, they are spoken without the pauses or other significant intonation that would indicate matter of minor importance. In writing, commas are likewise unnecessary 〈His friend George is turning against him.〉〈The man whom we saw yesterday is not here today.〉〈The man dressed in the new gray suit is his father.〉〈John is the boy standing in the rear and smiling to himself.〉〈We leave when the bell rings.〉〈He will come if his safe-conduct is guaranteed.〉

4.1.2.2 Sometimes the presence or absence of commas corresponding to spoken pauses constitutes the sole means of determining whether a phrase or clause is essential or nonessential, restrictive or nonrestrictive 〈Our friends, who live out of town, do not like the new parking laws/ Our friends who live out of town do not like the new parking laws.〉〈The men, draining the swamp, searched all day for the boy/The men draining the swamp searched all day for the boy.〉〈We do not visit him, because he always serves liquor/We do not visit him because he always serves liquor.〉

4.1.3 Commas set off transitional words and expressions (as *on the contrary, on the other hand, consequently, furthermore, moreover, nevertheless, therefore*) whenever they are or would be spoken with the adjacent rising or sustained pauses that indicate subordinate matter 〈The question, however, remains unsettled.〉〈Nevertheless, we shall go.〉〈On the contrary, under the rules a vote is in order.〉

4.1.3.1 Such expressions may occur in context so as to be spoken without significant pauses and may likewise require no punctuation 〈We shall therefore proceed with the operation.〉〈The weaklings will consequently be forced to drop out.〉〈A clear-cut decision is on the other hand too much to expect.〉

4.2.1 *Commas That Separate.* Various expressions are often used in sentences to introduce or qualify something that follows. To separate these elements in speech a rising or sustained pause denotes the end of the introductory information and the beginning of the main part of the statement. In writing, a comma accordingly often separates an introductory word or phrase from the rest of the sentence, particularly when the introductory material is long or when ambiguity might otherwise occur 〈Unfortunately, we shall have to decline the invitation.〉〈In the first place, you will get very little information from him.〉〈To gain popularity, he betrayed his convictions.〉〈Immediately upon reaching the surface, he swam to shore.〉〈Seeing the dog approaching, he ran off down the street.〉

4.2.2 Whenever in spoken English there is an enumeration of items, a rising or sustained pause separates and distinguishes each member of the series. In writing, a comma likewise usually separates words, phrases, or clauses that occur in a series 〈The estate is to be divided among Robert, John, and William.〉〈Trees, trees, trees were all we could see.〉〈He opened the can, removed the contents, and replaced the lid.〉〈The one who befriended us, watched over us, and gave us help is now no more.〉〈The prisoner will not talk, he refuses to eat, and he pounds the bars continually.〉

4.2.2.1 Before *and* or *or* introducing the final term in a closed series, writers usually put a comma 〈*a, b,* and *c*〉〈a coat, a hat, and a pair of gloves〉〈scientific, technical, and learned periodicals〉 but sometimes omit it in a short series 〈a coat, a hat and a pair of gloves〉〈*a, b* and *c*〉

4.2.2.2 Modifying words in an open series preceding a noun are often separated and distinguished in speech by pauses and in writing by commas 〈a rural, agricultural, idyllic life〉〈journalistic, literary, popular publications〉. Sometimes, however, the pause and hence the comma may be unnecessary when the second modifier relates more closely to the noun than the first, or when the first modifier applies to the second modifier and the noun as a unit 〈a quiet rural atmosphere〉〈a vivid red tie〉〈a brilliant military strategist〉

4.2.3 Statements or clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction are separated in speech by a sustained or rising pause. In writing, a comma usually effects this separation 〈He seemed inattentive, but not a word escaped him.〉〈His face showed his disappointment, for he knew he had failed.〉〈He did not like intruders of the sort that now confronted him, nor did he see any way of avoiding them.〉〈She knew very little about him, and he volunteered nothing.〉

4.2.3.1 When the statements or clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction are brief and unambiguous, and usually when the subject is the same, the comma may be omitted 〈He will suffer but he will recover.〉

4.2.3.2 A comma alone without the conjunction sometimes separates brief and closely related statements or clauses. In such instances a sustained or slightly falling pause may occur in speech rather than the fading pause and full stop designated by the period 〈The boy went to the store, then he went home.〉〈Don't bother, it doesn't make any difference.〉〈He would always remember, the experience was now a part of him.〉 This comma may or may not be permissive in the treatment of the comma fault in various handbooks of composition.

4.2.3.3 When a conjunction joins two predicative constructions that have the same subject, the clarifying pause in speech may be slight or imperceptible. In writing, a comma is likewise not considered necessary except to avoid ambiguity 〈The car teetered for a moment on the edge of the road and then plunged down the embankment.〉〈Sailing an iceboat is thrilling sport but requires great skill.〉

4.2.4 Corresponding to the rising or sustained pause necessary in speech to distinguish items in addresses and dates, a comma usually separates such matter in writing 〈Born January 1, 1900, in Delhi, India, the university's outstanding student received his college degree in June, 1922.〉〈Apply for the booklet at the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C.〉

4.2.4.1 Usage is about evenly divided, however, when the day is not given 〈in June 1922〉 or 〈in June, 1922〉

4.2.4.2 Sometimes writers omit the comma after the year 〈born January 1, 1900 in India〉

4.2.5 When such expressions as *namely, that is, i. e., e. g., viz.* introduce an illustration or example, a comma that corresponds in function to a rising or sustained pause in speech usually separates it from what follows 〈There are two ways to do the job: namely, a right way and a wrong way.〉〈He forbade future forays; that is, there were to be no more raids on the neighbors' gardens.〉

4.2.6 A comma usually indicates the place of an omitted word or word group to achieve a separation like that effected in speech by a sustained or rising pause 〈The tractor is used for hauling; the bulldozer, for excavating.〉

4.2.7 Like a sustained or rising pause in speech, a comma usually separates a direct quotation from the rest of a sentence or context 〈"Make way for liberty," he cried.〉〈He asked abruptly, "Which way do you vote?"〉〈As some say, "Virtue is its own reward."〉

4.3 *Commas Used Arbitrarily.* The comma often functions in an arbitrary manner as a mechanical device.

4.3.1 In numbers the comma usually separates thousands, millions, and other groups of three digits except in dates, page numbers, and street numbers, and in numbers of four digits 〈an altitude of 7525 feet〉〈3600 rpm〉

4.3.2 A comma usually sets off inverted names in bibliographies and reference lists 〈Doe, John, Jr.〉

4.3.3 A comma usually separates a proper name and an academic or honorary title, also two or more such titles in succession 〈John Doe, M.A., Ph.D., President〉

4.3.4 A comma is the customary mark after the salutation in personal letters and after the complimentary close in all letters 〈Dear Jack,〉〈Sincerely yours,〉〈Yours very truly,〉

4.4.1 One may avoid excessive or uncertain use of the comma by eliminating commas, excepting those used arbitrarily, where there are no significant pauses. In terms of structure, a comma does not usually separate closely related grammatical sequences 〈The advice his father gave him/ remained long in his mind.〉〈The result of the long and detailed planning was/ that the forces were well prepared for the battle.〉〈The flea-bitten, shaggy/ dog padded desolately down the alley.〉〈The long, happy, and successful trip/ was one he will never forget.〉〈His new car is a fast/ and powerful machine.〉

4.4.2 It is equally important to insert a comma to prevent misreading or ambiguity. The need for a rising or sustained pause in speech usually indicates that a comma is necessary in writing 〈Inside, the fire was burning brightly.〉〈Ever since, the little man comes at dark to clean the kitchen.〉〈Whoever lost it, lost an invaluable treasure.〉〈To Ruth, John appeared as a mighty warrior on a white horse.〉〈In 1925, 25 percent of the graduates of the school went on to college.〉〈The railroad had no resources, but the trains were somehow kept running.〉〈As the car struck, the utility pole fell with a crash.〉

5. THE SEMICOLON

5.1 In general the semicolon functions as a weak period or as a strong comma. As a weak period the semicolon corresponds to a fading pause and full stop in speech similar to but perhaps not quite as final as that represented by a period. As a strong comma the semicolon corresponds to a rising or sustained pause in speech possibly longer or slightly more definitive than that represented by a comma.

5.1.1 As a weak period a semicolon usually separates independent statements or clauses joined together in one sentence without a conjunction. Such statements or clauses are usually closely related 〈Make no terms; resist until the last breath.〉〈A fool babbles continuously; a wise man holds his tongue.〉

5.1.2 As a weak period a semicolon usually separates two statements or clauses when the second begins with a sentence connector or conjunctive adverb, as *accordingly, also, consequently, furthermore, hence, however, indeed, moreover, nevertheless, otherwise, so, still, then, therefore, thus, yet* 〈You have recommended this man; therefore I will give him a trial.〉〈His conduct has always been exemplary; nevertheless he will not be permitted to go.〉

5.1.3 As a strong comma a semicolon usually separates phrases or clauses that are themselves broken up by punctuation 〈The country's resources consist of large ore deposits; lumber, waterpower, and fertile soils; a favorable climate; and a strong, rugged people.〉〈When the presently available natural resources are greatly depleted, man will have to develop new sources of food and power; and then will come the real test of his energies his imagination, and his ingenuity.〉

5.1.4 A semicolon sometimes separates arbitrarily in lists of names with addresses, titles, or figures where a comma alone would not clearly separate items or references 〈Genesis 3:1–19; 4:1–16〉

6. THE COLON

6.1 The colon, corresponding to a fading or sustained pause in speech, is a rhetorical mark of supplementation. It links clauses, phrases, or less often single words; it indicates that what follows it coordinates with some element of what precedes or sometimes with all of what precedes back to the beginning of a sentence. Specific types of supplementation are mentioned in parentheses after the examples 〈The same forced yes-or-no choice appears on referenda on public questions: the voter cannot express approval of some parts and disapproval of others unless amended. (elaboration)〉〈It vigorously opposes clandestine marriages: that is, marriages which were made outside the auspices of the Church. (definition)〉〈His ambition must be stirred: his greed must be played upon. (balance)〉〈The following items of equipment are necessary: sleeping bag, ground cloth, cooking utensils, and a small axe. (enumeration)〉〈Representatives of ten countries presented papers at the formal meetings, including: Brazil, England, France, Holland, India, Italy, Japan, the United States, the U. S. S. R., and West Germany —Allen Kent. (enumeration)〉〈The author never exploits any whimsical or romantic elements in this subject: he maintains throughout the decent, workmanlike attitude he has set himself. (restatement)〉〈Local currencies, like local laws, were not suppressed: they were encouraged to improve. (antithesis)〉〈His death raised the possibility that his political heirs might seek the final solution for insolvent, disorganized governments: war. (summation)〉〈The question is this: will the removal of restrictions lead to freedom or license? (apposition)〉
Usually what precedes a colon is general and what follows is specific but sometimes the relation is reversed 〈Physics and biology, evolution and anthropology, conservation and religion: he discusses them all.〉
Sometimes paired colons correlate 〈He has ambition: it must be stirred. He has a belief in fair play: it must be honored.〉
Frequently the colon is reinforced by anticipatory phrasing (as *thus, namely, for example, as follows*).

6.2 A colon functions as a mechanical device in set formulas involving separation of parts, as when relating the antecedent of a ratio to its consequent 〈12 : 19〉 or one ratio to another 〈12 : 19 : : x : 57〉 or when relating subdivisional

units in a descending series to specify or particularize one member, especially in time-telling by hour, minute, and second ⟨2:31:30⟩, in bibliographical reference by volume and page ⟨*National Geographic* 33:89⟩ or by chapter and verse ⟨Luke 2:12⟩ or by place and publisher ⟨Springfield : G. & C. Merriam Co.⟩, or in accounting by pounds, shillings, and pence ⟨46 : 6 : 11⟩

6.3 A colon symbolizes a conventional separation or emphatic pause after a formal salutation in a letter ⟨Dear Sir:⟩ or an address ⟨Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:⟩ or between a book title and a subtitle not otherwise differentiated ⟨*Victory : A History of the Recent Struggle*⟩

6.4 A colon introduces a quotation especially when quotation marks are omitted and when the quoted matter is indented ⟨We quote from the text: "Greater love hath no man".⟩:

He reads these words from Ruth:
Whither thou goest, I will go.

Mother: Where did you go?
Child: I won't tell.

A colon joins terms that are being contrasted or compared and is sometimes centered or spaced ⟨Seventeenth century rhymes include *prayer: afar* and *brass : was : ass*.⟩ ⟨The stature of the two sexes shows very nearly the same female : male proportions.⟩

7. THE DASH

7.0 In its function in writing and in the speech intonation to which it corresponds, the dash is similar to the comma and the colon, and a pair of dashes is similar to parentheses.

7.1 A dash usually marks an abrupt change or suspension in the thought or structure of a sentence ⟨If you will listen I will explain — but perhaps another time will be better.⟩ ⟨The mountain we climbed is higher than — oh, never mind how high it is.⟩ ⟨He was — how shall I put it — a controversial figure to say the least.⟩ ⟨"Yes, but I — er — I'll have to —" and he stopped hopelessly.⟩

7.2 A dash often makes parenthetic, appositional, or explanatory matter stand out clearly or emphatically ⟨Three of the country's most important products — oil, steel, and wheat — are produced in greater quantities than ever before.⟩ ⟨Two of our group — Eddie and John — came walking down the street.⟩ ⟨He is willing to discuss all problems — those he has solved and those for which there is no immediate solution.⟩

7.3 A dash often occurs before a summarizing statement or clause ⟨Oil, steel, and wheat — these are the sinews of industrialization.⟩

7.4 A dash sometimes sets off appositional or parenthetic matter that is introduced by such expressions as *namely, for example, that is* ⟨Sports develop two valuable traits — namely, self-control and the ability to make quick decisions.⟩

7.5 A dash often mechanically precedes the name of an author or source at the end of a quoted passage ⟨There is a tide in the affairs of men which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune —William Shakespeare⟩ ⟨"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" —Genesis 1:1⟩

7.6 A long dash often functions as a notational device to indicate the omission of a word or of letters in a word ⟨yelling —— loudly⟩ ⟨Mr. M—— of New York⟩ ⟨go to the d———l⟩

7.7 A short dash — slightly larger than a hyphen — often serves as an arbitrary equivalent of *to and including* between numbers or dates and in compounding capitalized two-word names with the hyphen ⟨pages 40–98⟩ ⟨the decade 1951–60⟩ ⟨the New York–Lisbon plane⟩

8. PARENTHESES

8.1 Parentheses often set off parenthetic matter when the interruption is more marked than that usually indicated by commas ⟨Three old destroyers (all now out of commission) will be scrapped.⟩ ⟨He is hoping (as we all are) that this time he will succeed.⟩

8.2 Parentheses often set off supplementary or explanatory matter that is not a part of the main statement or not a structural element of the sentence ⟨The more distant mountain (I think you have climbed it before) is our goal.⟩ ⟨The diagram (Fig. 3) illustrates the action of the pump.⟩ ⟨The Springfield (Illinois) stop is the first on the tour.⟩

8.3 Parentheses often mechanically enclose sequential numbers or letters in a series (but do not take the place of required punctuation) ⟨We must clearly set forth (1) our long-term goals, (2) our immediate objectives, and (3) the means at our disposal.⟩

8.4 Parentheses usually arbitrarily enclose an arabic number confirming a number expressed in words ⟨Delivery will be made in thirty (30) days.⟩ ⟨Payment due is twenty dollars ($20.00).⟩

9. BRACKETS

9.1 Brackets usually set off mechanically a word or phrase that is extraneous or incidental to the context, such as editorial interpolations ⟨He wrote, "I am just as cheerful as when you was [sic] here".⟩ ⟨A fly is said to be a two-winged dipterous [does that make four wings?] insect.⟩ ⟨The officer in charge [General Doe] had to countersign the order.⟩

9.2 Brackets often function as parentheses within parentheses ⟨Bowman Act (22 Stat., ch. 4, § [or sec.] 4, p. 50).⟩

10. ELLIPSIS *or* SUSPENSION POINTS

10.1 Consisting usually of three spaced periods or asterisks and corresponding in effect to a sustained pause in speech, an ellipsis often indicates an interrupted or unfinished sentence. Wherever an ellipsis is terminal, a period follows ⟨"I shall . . . that is . . . if we can only . . . ." He faltered and stopped speaking.⟩ ⟨"Cut the line and cast. . . ." His voice was lost in the crash of the next wave.⟩

10.2 An ellipsis often occurs as a notational device to indicate an omission in quoted matter, as a word or a group of consecutive words unessential or undesirable for quotation ⟨"Oh say can you see . . . what so proudly we hailed . . .?"⟩

10.3 An ellipsis on a line by itself in poetry indicates the omission of one or more lines of verse. Sometimes it consists of periods spaced and extended in number to the full measure of the line:

Thus driven
By the bright shadow of that lovely dream,
. . . . . .
He fled

—P. B. Shelley

11. THE CENTERED PERIOD

11.1 A centered period in a dictionary entry indicates syllabic or end-of-line division ⟨dy•nam•ic⟩. (For discussion and examples see "Divisions in Respelled Pronunciations" and "Divisions in Boldface Entry Words".)

12. THE HYPHEN (For discussion and examples of hyphens see "The Writing of Compounds".)

12.1.1 A hyphen is a mark of separation or division at the end of a line which terminates with a syllable of a word that is to be carried over to the next line ⟨mill- [end of line] stone⟩ ⟨pas-sion⟩

12.1.2 A hyphen divides letters or syllables to give the effect of stuttering, sobbing, or halting ⟨S-s-sammy⟩ ⟨ah-ah-ah⟩ ⟨y-y-es⟩

12.1.3 A hyphen suspends the second part of a hyphened compound used in combination with another hyphened compound ⟨a six- or eight-cylindered engine⟩ ⟨in ten- and twenty-dollar bills⟩

12.1.4 Hyphens indicate a word spelled out letter by letter ⟨p-r-o-b-a-t-i-o-n⟩

12.2 A hyphen before a word element indicates that it is a suffix or a terminal combining form ⟨-ous⟩ ⟨-ship⟩

12.3 A hyphen after a word element indicates that it is a prefix or initial combining form ⟨anti-⟩ ⟨fore-⟩

12.4 Hyphens before and after a word element indicate that it is a medial word element ⟨-o-⟩

13. QUOTATION MARKS

13.1 Quotation marks often enclose a direct quotation from a speaker or from a text or other written matter ⟨"When I am dead," said one of the keenest of modern minds, one of the greatest of modern poets, "lay a sword on my coffin, for I was a soldier in the war for the liberation of humanity."⟩
Quotation marks are not used to enclose oft-quoted familiar phrases (as *to err is human*).
Quotation marks are not used to enclose indirect quotations ⟨*direct* — The man said, "I am going home."⟩ ⟨*indirect* — The man said that he was going home.⟩

13.2 In long quotations, excepting extracts from plays, left-hand quotation marks are placed at the beginning of every paragraph included in the quotation in addition to those placed at the beginning and at the end of the selection.

13.3 Quotation marks are usually not used when the quoted matter is set in smaller type or in paragraphs indented on both sides.

13.4 Single quotation marks enclose a quotation within a quotation; or if single quotation marks are used primarily, double quotation marks enclose a quotation within a quotation ⟨The witness said, "I distinctly heard him say, 'Don't be late'; then I heard the door close".⟩

13.5 Quotation marks usually enclose titles of short poems, paintings, lectures, articles, and parts or chapters of books. (Titles of whole books, periodicals, and newspapers are usually italicized in context.)

13.5.1 In American usage printers usually place a period or comma inside closing quotation marks whether it belongs logically to the quoted matter or to the whole sentence or context ⟨The package is labeled "Handle with Care."⟩ ⟨The golden rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," is easier to remember than to practice.⟩
But when a logical or exact distinction is desired in specialized work in which clarity is more important than usual (as in this dictionary), a period or comma can be placed outside quotation marks when it belongs not to the quoted matter but to a large unit containing the quoted matter ⟨The package is labeled "Handle with Care".⟩ ⟨This act may be cited as the "Army-Navy Medical Services Corps Act of 1947".⟩ ⟨The Prime Minister, after reporting the negotiations, declared resolutely, "Our only course is to resist aggression".⟩ ⟨Replying with the one word "Bunk", he subsided.⟩

13.5.2 Only one other mark accompanies closing quotation marks, whether the quotation and the whole sentence or context call for the same mark or for different marks ⟨Did he keep asking you, "What is your number?"⟩ ⟨We shouted in unison, "Where do you think you're going?"⟩ ⟨Just as he screamed, "I will not!" he slammed the door.⟩ ⟨Is this the gratitude I receive, to have you bellow, "Get out of here and don't come back!"⟩

13.5.3 A colon or semicolon is usually placed outside of quotation marks ⟨"Fame is proof that people are gullible"; with this quotation he retired in silence.⟩

13.5.4 A colon or semicolon is sometimes placed inside the quotation marks when it belongs inseparably to the quotation ⟨"Sirs:" is a salutation used in letters to a newspaper.⟩; however, a terminal colon or semicolon of quoted matter incorporated in a sentence usually gives place to appropriate end punctuation.

13.5.5 A question mark or exclamation point is usually placed inside or outside the quotation marks according to whether it belongs to the quoted matter or to the whole sentence or clause that includes the quotation ⟨Can you forget his angry exit after he shouted "Include me out"?⟩ ⟨"And what do you think of this new novel?" his friend asked.⟩

13.6 Quotation marks, often single quotation marks, sometimes enclose technical terms unfamiliar to the reader; words used in an unusual sense; and coined words, trade or shop jargon, or slang for which the writer implies a slight apology ⟨An "em" is a unit of measure used in printing.⟩ ⟨The plates of copper are hung by "corrosion hooks" in the acid.⟩ ⟨This venture is a "wildcat" invented to prey upon the unwary.⟩ ⟨We've had enough of your "unshrinkable" shirts.⟩ ⟨He is "goofy" according to their lingo.⟩

14. THE APOSTROPHE

14.0 An apostrophe and *s* are usually added to a noun to indicate ownership or a relation analogous to ownership. This possessive form is a survival of the *es* ending in Old and Middle English, from which the vowel sound has disappeared in Modern English except in nouns ending with the sound \s\, \z\, \sh\, \zh\, \ch\, or \j\. In early Modern English the *s* of the possessive was often dropped from the possessive of nouns already ending in an *s* or *z* sound, both in speaking and in writing, leaving only the apostrophe in writing, as is evident in various idioms and in poetry. Since the middle of the 19th century, however, the form with the apostrophe and *s* has been generally adopted for the possessives in which the extra syllable is not awkward to pronounce in context.

14.1 An apostrophe and *s* form the possessive case of singular or plural nouns that do not end in an *s* or *z* sound ⟨boy's⟩ ⟨carpenter's⟩ ⟨dog's⟩ ⟨president's⟩ ⟨at his wit's end⟩ ⟨garage's responsibility⟩ ⟨Senator Doe's constituency⟩ ⟨the church's policy⟩ ⟨men's⟩ ⟨Descartes's philosophy⟩ ⟨Delacroix's painting⟩

14.2 An apostrophe either with or without *s* forms the possessive case of singular nouns ending in an *s* or *z* sound.

14.2.1 Singular nouns ending in an *s* or *z* sound that consist of one syllable or have a primary or secondary accent on the last syllable usually add an apostrophe and *s* to form the possessive case ⟨the class's recitation⟩ ⟨the press's description⟩ ⟨the fox's tail⟩ ⟨King James's reign⟩ ⟨Laplace's theories⟩ ⟨the marquise's jewels⟩

14.2.2 Singular nouns ending in an *s* or *z* sound that consist of more than one syllable and have no primary or secondary accent on the last syllable often add the apostrophe and *s* to form the possessive case unless the additional syllable with the *s* or *z* sound would be unpleasant or difficult to pronounce in context. Sometimes such a syllable is necessary to avoid ambiguity in pronunciation. Usage is divided in this matter (1) ⟨an audience's/

audience' reaction〉〈the waitress's/ waitress' duties〉〈the phoenix's/ phoenix' nest〉〈for appearance's/ appearance') sake〉(2)〈Dr. Adams'/ Adams's services〉〈the octopus'/ octopus's snaky appearance〉〈Dickens'/ Dickens's novels〉

14.2.3 With some exceptions various classical and biblical names are treated as in 14.2.1 and 14.2.2 〈Zeus's son〉〈Mars's help〉〈Venus's/ Venus'〉〈Judas's/ Judas'〉but〈Brutus'/ Brutus's〉〈Odysseus'/ Odysseus's〉, and〈Jesus'〉〈Moses'〉〈Pythagoras's/ Pythagoras'〉〈Herodotus's/ Herodotus'〉〈Oedipus's/ Oedipus'〉, but〈Aristophanes'/ Aristophanes's〉〈Socrates'/ Socrates's〉〈Thucydides'/ Thucydides's〉

14.3 An apostrophe without *s* usually forms the possessive case of plural nouns ending in an *s* or *z* sound 〈consumers' protest〉〈foxes' holes〉〈the Joneses' invitation〉〈the two chateaux' occupants〉but〈geese's〉〈lice's〉〈mice's〉

14.4 An apostrophe and *s* usually form the possessive case of various indefinite pronouns 〈anybody's〉〈anyone's〉〈everybody's〉〈everyone's〉〈somebody's〉〈someone's〉but no apostrophe is used in the possessive pronouns *his, hers, its, ours, yours, theirs.*

FORMS OF ADDRESS

An exhaustive list of all alternative forms of address permissible in polite correspondence would extend far beyond the scope of this dictionary; especially in informal correspondence there is a great variety of possible salutations. In the table below we have usually put the most formal address and salutation first. Differences of local usage, however, inevitably introduce many exceptions. In the United States "My dear Mrs. Smith" is more formal than "Dear Mrs. Smith"; in Great Britain the reverse is true. In business correspondence the addressee's address is placed before the salutation; in most official and some social correspondence, it is placed at the foot of the letter, below and to the left of the signature. Social invitations to a married man are customarily addressed to the man and his wife; as, Senator and Mrs. ——; The President and Mrs. ——; Lord and Lady ——; Their Excellencies, the German Ambassador and Madam ——; etc.

It will be noted that some of the addresses given below begin with the word "To," whereas most do not. There is no hard-and-fast rule. We have tried to suggest merely the more customary usage. Insertion or omission of the word "To" is optional. It will also be noted that the same word may be spelled differently according to the residence of the persons addressed. For example, in the United States the spellings *honor* and *honorable* are preferred; but in Great Britain, *honour* and *honourable*. In the address abbreviations are commonly used but they should never be used in the salutation or beginning of a letter.

*Such salutations as My Lord, Your Lordship, etc., are not ordinarily used in the United States of America, but should be used by an American writing to dignitaries of foreign countries entitled to such a title or mark of respect.

†When the person addressed holds several titles, as one from birth, another by marriage, and another by profession, the highest title should be preferred.

‡Clerical, naval, and military prefixes are written before other titles; initials indicative of distinction are written after the title and name; an officer should be addressed by his official title when the communication refers to official business.

A

abbot
address: The Right Reverend —— ——, O.S.B. (or other initials of the order), Abbot of ——; *or* The Right Rev. Abbot ——
begin: Right Reverend and dear Father

administrator same as governor

air force officers like army officers

alderman (in Canada and U.S.)
address: Honorable —— ——
begin: Dear Sir

ambassador†
address: His Excellency, The American Ambassador; *or* The Honorable —— ——, American Ambassador; *or* His Excellency, —— ——, Ambassador of Brazil at ——; *or* His Excellency, Her Majesty's Ambassador for the United Kingdom (the personal name or hereditary or professional title may be added after the words *His Excellency; His Excellency* is usually abbreviated to *H.E.*)
begin: Sir (*or* with the personal title, as Your Grace, etc.); *or* Excellency

ambassador and his wife
address: His Excellency, The —— Ambassador and Mrs. —— ——; *or* The Honorable —— ——, —— Ambassador and Madam —— ——
begin: Your Excellencies

apostolic delegate see papal nuncio

archbishop (Anglican)
address: The Most Reverend His Grace the Lord Archbishop of ——
begin: My Lord Archbishop; *or* Your Grace
In formal documents the archbishops of Canterbury and York are addressed as The Most Reverend Father in God ——, by Divine Providence Lord Archbishop of ——

archbishop (Roman Catholic)
address: The Most Reverend —— ——, D.D., Archbishop of ——
begin: Your Excellency

archdeacon
address: The Venerable The Archdeacon of ——; *or* The Venerable —— ——, Archdeacon of ——
begin: Venerable Sir

army officers
In the United States in letters from civilians:
address: The Commander in Chief, Army of the United States; *or* Lieutenant General ——, Commanding Officer, Army of the United States; Colonel (highest rank and full title) —— ——, U.S.A.; Lieutenant ——, U.S.A. (in case of retired officers U.S.A. is omitted)
begin: Sir; *or* (informal) My dear General —— (not My dear Lieutenant General ——); *or* Dear Commander —— (not Dear Paymaster Commander ——); and for all officers below the rank of captain, My dear (*Rank*) —— ——
In the British army and navy when an officer has a hereditary title or rank, his military or naval rank will ordinarily be prefixed to this; as, Admiral the Right Honourable the Earl of ——; General the Right Honourable Lord ——; but lieutenants in the army and sublieutenants in the navy are not addressed by their military or naval rank; thus, —— ——, Esq., 10th Hussars (not Lieutenant —— ——)
begin: Sir; *or* Dear General ——; *or* Dear Lord —— (but not Dear General Lord ——)

assemblyman
address: The Honorable —— ——, Member of Assembly; *or* Assemblyman ——
begin: Sir; *or* Dear Sir; *or* My dear Mr. ——

assistant secretary (assistant to a cabinet officer)
address: Honorable —— ——, Assistant Secretary of ——; *or* The Assistant Secretary of the —— Department
begin: Sir; *or* Dear Sir; *or* My dear Mr. ——; *or* Dear Mr. —— (never Mr. Secretary)

associate justice
address: The Honorable —— ——, United States Supreme Court; *or* Mr. Justice ——, The Supreme Court
begin: My dear Mr. Justice; *or* Dear Justice ——

attorney general see cabinet officers

auditor of the treasury
address: The Honorable —— ——, Auditor of the Treasury; *or* The Auditor of the Treasury
begin: Sir; *or* Dear Sir

B

baron
address: The Right Honourable Lord ——; *or* The Lord ——
begin: My Lord

baroness
address: The Right Honourable the Baroness ——; *or* The Right Honourable Lady ——; *or* The Lady ——
begin: Madam

baronet
address: Sir John ——, Bt. *or* Bart.
begin: Sir

baronet's wife see lady

baron's daughter
address: (if unmarried) The Honourable Helen ——; *or* (if married to a commoner or to the son of a baron or viscount or the younger son of an earl) The Honourable Mrs. ——; *or* (if her husband has a married brother) The Honourable Mrs. John ——; *or* (if married to a knight or baronet) The Honourable Lady ——. If she is married to a man of higher title, use feminine of husband's title
begin: Madam (or use higher title if one exists)

baron's son
address: The Honourable —— ——
begin: Sir
(in Scotland the eldest son is sometimes addressed as Master of ——)

baron's son's wife† like baron's married daughter

baron's wife = baroness

Benedictine see priest

bishop (Anglican)
address: The Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of ——; *or* The Lord Bishop of ——; *or* (very formal) The Right Reverend Father in God, ——, by Divine Permission Lord Bishop of ——
In formal documents the Bishop of Durham is addressed as The Most Reverend Father in God ——, by Divine Providence Lord Bishop of Durham
begin: My Lord Bishop; *or* My Lord

bishop (Methodist)
address: The Reverend —— ——, D.D.
begin: Reverend Sir; *or* Dear Sir; *or* Dear Bishop ——; *or* My dear Bishop ——

bishop (Protestant Episcopal)
address: To the Right Reverend —— ——, Bishop of ——
begin: Right Reverend and Dear Sir; *or* (informal) Dear Bishop ——; *or* My dear Bishop ——

bishop (Roman Catholic)
In England
address: The Lord Bishop of ——; *or* The Right Reverend —— ——, Bishop of ——
begin: My Lord Bishop; *or* My Lord
In the U.S.
address: The Most Reverend —— ——, Bishop of ——
begin: Your Excellency
In Italy
address: To His Excellency, the Most Illustrious and Most Reverend Monsignor ——, Bishop of ——
begin: Most Illustrious and Most Reverend Lord; *or* Excellency

brother of a religious order
address: Brother ——, (followed by the initials of the order)
begin: Dear Brother ——

C

cabinet officers (United States)
address: The Honorable the Secretary of State (or Defense, Agriculture, etc.); The Honorable the Secretary of the Treasury; The Honorable the Postmaster General; *or* The Honorable —— ——, Secretary of State, etc.; *or* The Secretary of State; The Attorney General, etc.
begin: Sir; *or* Dear Sir; *or* My dear Mr. Secretary; *or* My dear Mr. Attorney General

canon
address: The Very Reverend Canon —— ——; *or* The Very Reverend ——, Canon of ——
begin: Very Reverend Canon; *or* Dear Canon ——

canon regular see priest regular

cardinal
address: His Eminence John Cardinal H——
begin: Your Eminence*

cardinal (if also an archbishop)
address: His Eminence —— Cardinal ——, Archbishop of ——

Carthusian see priest

chargé d'affaires
address: The Chargé d'Affaires of ——; *or* —— ——, Esq., Chargé d'Affaires; *or* Mr. —— ——, Chargé d'Affaires
begin: Dear Sir; *or* Sir; *or* My dear Mr. —— (use military, naval, or hereditary title, if there is one)†

chief justice of the Supreme Court of Canada
address: The Honourable —— ——, Chief Justice of Canada
begin: Sir

chief justice of the United States
address: The Chief Justice of the United States; *or* The Chief Justice, The Supreme Court, Washington, D.C.; *or*, if to the chief justice and his wife, The Chief Justice and Mrs. ——
begin: Sir; *or* My dear Mr. Chief Justice

children see baron's daughter, baron's son, duke's eldest son; children of a peeress in her own right married to a commoner receive the same courtesy titles as though their father were a peer of the mother's rank

Cistercian see priest

clergyman
address: The Reverend —— —— (Rev. and Mrs. —— ——); *or* (if a doctor of divinity) The Rev. Dr. —— ——; *or* The Reverend —— ——, D.D.
begin: Dear Sir; *or* Reverend Sir; *or* My dear Mr. (or Dr.) ——; *or* Dear Mr. (or Dr.) ——; see also archbishop, bishop, priest (most authorities disapprove the use of *Rev.* with the last name alone)

clerk (Anglican Church)
address: The Reverend —— ——; *or* (if the son of a duke or marquess) The Reverend Lord —— ——; *or* (if the son of an earl, viscount, or baron) The Rev. The Hon. —— ——†
begin: Reverend Sir; *or* Sir

clerk (below the order of priesthood in Roman Catholic Church)
address: The Reverend —— ——
begin: Reverend Sir; *or* Dear Mr. ——

clerk of the Senate *or* **House**
address: The Honorable —— ——, Clerk of ——
begin: Sir; *or* Dear Sir

commissioner of a bureau (as U.S. Commissioner of Education)
address: The Honorable —— ——, Commissioner of the Bureau of Education
begin: Sir; *or* Dear Sir

common forms
man
address: Mr. —— ——
begin: Dear Sir; My dear Sir; My dear Mr. ——; *or* Dear Mr. ——
pl. address: Messrs. —— —— and —— ——
begin: Gentlemen
married woman
address: Mrs. John Doe
begin: Dear Madam; My dear Madam; My dear Mrs. Doe; *or* Dear Mrs. Doe
pl. address: Mmes. —— —— and —— ——
begin: Mesdames; *or* Ladies
unmarried woman
address: Miss Doe (eldest daughter); *or* Miss Jane Doe (younger daughter)
begin: Dear Madam; My dear Miss Doe; etc.
pl. address: The Misses Doe
begin: Ladies; *or* Mesdames

comptroller of Treasury
address: The Honorable —— ——, Comptroller of the Treasury
begin: Sir; *or* Dear Sir

congressman
address: Honorable —— ——, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.; *or* Honorable John Doe, Representative in Congress, Springfield, Mass.
(some authorities disapprove the use of the prefix Hon. without first name or initials)
begin: Sir; *or* Dear Sir; *or* My dear Mr. ——

consul
address: To the American Consul at ——; *or* —— ——, Esq., American Consul at ——; *or* Mr. —— ——, United States Consul at ——; *or* To —— ——, Esq., Her Majesty's Consul for the United Kingdom
begin: Dear Sir

countess
address: To the Right Honourable The Countess of ——; *or* The Countess ——
begin: Madam

D

dame
address: Dame —— —— (followed with initials of the order, or if the lady has a higher title, with these initials after that title)†
begin: Madam

deacon (Anglican and Protestant Episcopal)
address: The Reverend Deacon ——
begin: Reverend Sir
(for deacons of other churches there is no special form of address)

dean (cathedral)
address: The Very Reverend the Dean of ——
begin: Very Reverend Sir; *or* Sir

dean (Roman Catholic)
address: The Very Reverend —— ——, V.F.
begin: Very Reverend Father

dean of a college *or* **graduate school**
address: Dean —— ——
begin: Dear Sir (*or* Madam); *or* Dear Dean ——

diplomat see ambassador, chargé d'affaires, minister (diplomatic); for diplomats of lower rank, having no other title, use common forms

divorced woman
(ordinarily *Mrs.* with her maiden name as a prename instead of her ex-husband's prename is preferred; some divorced women prefer to resume the *Miss;* the form of address preferred by the woman herself, if that is known, should be used unless there has been a court decision; divorced peeresses lose officially any title gained by marriage; courtesy use of former title is optional)

doctor of divinity
address: —— ——, D.D.; *or* Dr. —— ——; *or* Rev. Dr. ——
begin: Dear Sir; *or* My dear Dr. ——; *or* Dear Dr. ——; *or* Reverend and Dear Sir; *or* Reverend Doctor

doctor of philosophy, laws, medicine, etc.
address: A—— B——, Ph.D. [LL.D.] [M.D.]; *or* Dr. A—— B——; (Dr. and Mrs. A—— B——; etc.)
begin: Dear Sir; *or* My dear Dr. B——; *or* Dear Dr. B——
(if a higher title is applicable, it should be preferred; see professor, president of a college)†

domestic prelate of the pope
address: The Right Reverend Monsignor —— ——, Domestic Prelate (or D.P.)
begin: Right Reverend Monsignor; *or* Dear Monsignor ——

dowager see widow

duchess
address: Her Grace the Duchess of ——; *or* The Most Noble the Duchess of ——
begin: Madam; *or* Your Grace

duchess of the blood royal
address: Her Royal Highness The Duchess of ——
begin: Madam; *or* May it please your Royal Highness

duke
address: His Grace the Duke of ——; *or* The Most Noble the Duke of ——
begin: My Lord Duke; *or* Your Grace

duke of the blood royal
address: His Royal Highness The Duke of ——
begin: Sir; *or* May it please your Royal Highness

duke's daughter†
address: The Lady Mary ——; *or* The Right Honourable Lady ——
begin: Madam; *or* My Lady
(if her husband holds a title of nobility, either by right or courtesy, the wife is ordinarily addressed according to her husband's title)

duke's eldest son
address: The Most Honourable the Marquess ——; *or* The Marquess of ——
begin: My Lord Marquess; *or* My Lord

duke's eldest son's daughter same as baron's daughter

duke's eldest son's eldest son use grandfather's third title

duke's eldest son's wife
address: The Most Honourable the Marchioness of ——
begin: My Lady Marchioness

duke's wife = duchess

duke's younger son
address: The Right Honourable Lord —— ——
begin: My Lord

duke's younger son's wife
address: Lady —— ——
begin: Madam; *or* My Lady; *or* Your Ladyship

E

earl
address: The Right Honourable The Earl of ——; *or* The Earl of ——
begin: My Lord

earl's daughter like duke's daughter

earl's eldest son
address: The Right Honourable the Viscount ——; *or* The Right Honourable Lord ——
begin: My Lord Viscount ——

earl's wife = countess

earl's younger son same as baron's son

earl's younger son's wife†
address: Honourable Mrs. ——
begin: Madam

envoy same as minister (diplomatic)

esquire
address: —— ——, Esq.
begin: Sir; *or* Dear Sir; *or* Dear Mr. ——
(*Esq.* is never used if the person is addressed by any other title, even *Mr.*)

F

French common forms
(these forms are acceptable for nearly all diplomats other than English-speaking)
man
address: M. —— ——
begin: Monsieur
pl. address: Messrs. ——
begin: Messieurs
married woman
address: Mme. —— ——
begin: Madame
pl. address: Mmes. —— —— et —— ——
begin: Mesdames
unmarried woman
address: Mlle. —— ——
begin: Madame (formal); *or* Mademoiselle (informal)
pl. address: Mlles. —— —— et —— ——
begin: Mesdames

G

German common forms
man
address: Herrn —— ——
begin: Sehr geehrter Herr
pl. address: Herren —— ——
begin: Geehrte Herren
married woman
address: Frau —— ——
begin: Sehr geehrte Frau ——
unmarried young woman
address: Fräulein —— ——
begin: Mein liebes Fräulein (cordial)

governor
address (in Massachusetts and in New Hampshire and by courtesy in some other states) His Excellency, The Governor of ——; *or* His Excellency —— ——; *or* (in other states of the U.S.) The Honorable the Governor of ——; *or* The Honorable —— ——, Governor of ——
begin: Sir; *or* Dear Sir

governor-general of an independent commonwealth
address: His Excellency —— —— (personal title and name), Governor-General of ——
begin: Sir (or according to rank)

governor-general of Canada†
address: His Excellency The Right Honourable —— ——, (plus personal rank or title, if any)
begin: My Lord; *or* Sir (according to rank)

governor-general's wife (British dominions)†
address: Her Excellency —— ——
begin: Madam

H

honorary chamberlain to the pope same as papal chamberlain

I

internuncio see papal nuncio

Italian common forms
man
address: Gentilissimo Signore ——
begin: Gentilissimo Signore
pl. address: Spettabile Ditta ——
begin: Spettabile Ditta
married woman
address: Distinta Signora ——
begin: Distinta Signora
unmarried woman
address: Esimia Signorina —— ——
begin: Esimia Signorina

J

judge (in Canada)
address: The Honourable Mr. Justice —— (if of a superior court or of the circuit court of Montreal); *or* His Honour Judge —— (if of a lower court)
begin: Sir

judge (in England and the British dominions [except as noted elsewhere in this table])
address: Honourable Mr. Justice ——; *or* (when a knight) Honourable Sir ——
begin: Sir

judge (in U.S.)
address: The Honorable —— ——, United States District Judge (or Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, etc.)
begin: Dear Sir; *or* My dear Judge ——
see also chief justice, associate justice

judge of City of London court *or* **of a county court in England** *or* **of a court in British colonies**
address: His Honour Judge ——
begin: Sir; *or* Dear Sir

junior added to a son's name to distinguish him from his father with the same name, —— ——, Jr.; *or* —— ——, Jr., Ph.D.; *or* jr.

justice see associate justice, chief justice, judge

K

king
address: The King's Most Excellent Majesty; *or* His Most Gracious Majesty, King ——
begin: Sir; *or* May it please your Majesty

king's counsel
address: To —— ——, Esq., K.C.
begin: Sir; *or* Dear Sir

knight
address: Sir —— —— (initials of his order, if any, as K.C.B.)
begin: Sir

knight's wife see lady

L

lady
address: Lady ——; *or* (if the daughter of a baron or viscount) Hon. Lady ——; *or* (if the daughter

of an earl, marquess, or duke) Lady Florence ——
begin: Madam; My Lady; Your Ladyship

lady mayoress see lord mayor's wife

lawyer
address: —— ——, Esq.; *or* Mr. —— ——, Attorney-at-Law
begin: Dear Sir; My dear Mr. ——; etc.
(Mr. —— ——, Esq. is incorrect)

lieutenant governor
address: The Honorable —— ——, Lieutenant Governor of ——; (British) His Honour The Lieutenant Governor of ——†
begin: Sir; *or* Dear Sir

lord advocate†
address: To the Right Honourable the Lord Advocate; *or* The Right Honourable —— ——
begin: Sir

lord chancellor†
address: The Right Honourable the Lord High Chancellor; *or* The Right Honourable —— (hereditary title), Lord High Chancellor
begin: My Lord (or according to rank)

lord chief justice of England†
address: To the Lord Chief Justice of England; *or* To the Rt. Hon. Baron ——, Lord Chief Justice of England
begin: Sir

lord mayor (of London, York, Belfast, Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Hobart, Adelaide, and Perth)
address: The Right Honourable Lord Mayor of ——; *or* The Right Honourable —— ——, Lord Mayor of ——
(all other lord mayors are addressed as The Right Worshipful)
begin: My Lord

lord mayor's wife
address: Mrs. —— ——
begin: Madam

lord of appeal in ordinary same as baron

lord of appeal in ordinary's children same as baron's children

lord of appeal in ordinary's wife same as baroness

lord of council and session
address: Honourable Lord ——
begin: My Lord

lord of council and session's wife
address: Lady ——
begin: Madam

lord provost
address: The Honourable the Lord Provost; *or* The Honourable ——, Lord Provost of ——; *or* (in Edinburgh and Glasgow) The Right Honourable the Lord Provost, etc.
begin: Sir

M

maid of honor
address: The Honourable Miss ——
begin: Madam

marchioness
address: The Most Honourable the Marchioness of ——
begin: Madam

marquess
address: The Most Honourable the Marquess of ——; *or* The Marquess of ——
begin: My Lord Marquess

marquess's children like duke's children

married woman see common forms

master of the rolls
address: To the Right Honourable the Master of the Rolls
begin: Sir

mayor (in Canadian cities and towns, and English boroughs)
address: His Worship, The Mayor of ——
begin: Sir

mayor (in English cities)
address: The Right Worshipful the Mayor of ——
begin: Sir (see also lord mayor)

mayor (in the U.S.)
address: The Honorable —— ——, Mayor of ——; *or* The Mayor of the City of ——
begin: Sir; *or* Dear Sir; *or* Dear Mr. Mayor; *or* My dear Mr. Mayor

member of parliament (*or* **of a provincial legislative council** *or* **of a provincial legislature,** etc.) the ordinary form of address followed by M.P. (*or* M.L.C., *or* M.P.P., *or* M.L.A., etc.)

military officers see army officers

minister (diplomatic)
address: The Honorable —— ——, Minister of Costa Rica; *or* Her Majesty's Minister for the United Kingdom
begin: Sir (or with personal title, as My Lord, Your Grace, etc.); *or* My dear Mr. Minister

minister of a provincial cabinet of Canada
address: The Honourable —— ——, Minister of ——
begin: Sir

minister of religion see clergyman, priest, rabbi

moderator (of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland)
address: The Right Reverend ——
begin: Right Reverend Sir

monk see priest regular, clerk

monsignor see domestic prelate, papal chamberlain, protonotary apostolic, vicar general

mother superior of a sisterhood
address: The Reverend Mother Superior, Convent of ——; *or* Reverend Mother ——, O.S.D. (*or* other initials of the order); *or* Mother ——, Superior, Convent of ——
begin: Reverend Mother; *or* Dear Madam; *or* Dear Reverend Mother (informal); *or* My dear Reverend Mother ——

N

naval officers
address: The Admiral of the Navy of the United States; *or* Admiral ——, Commanding United States Navy; Captain —— ——, U.S.N.
begin: Sir; *or* (informal) My dear Admiral ——; Dear Commander ——; but for officers below the rank of commander, Dear Mr. ——

nun see sister of a religious order

nuncio see papal nuncio

P

papal ablegate
address: The Right Reverend Monsignor ——, Ablegate of His Holiness the Pope
begin: Right Reverend Monsignor

papal chamberlain
address: The Very Reverend Monsignor ——
begin: Very Reverend and dear Monsignor

papal chaplain same as papal chamberlain

papal nuncio *or* **internuncio** *or* **apostolic delegate**
address: His Excellency, The Papal Nuncio (*or* Internuncio *or* Apostolic Delegate) to ——
begin: Your Excellency

parliament, member of see member of parliament

patriarch (Eastern Church)
address: His Beatitude the Patriarch of ——; *or* His Beatitude the Lord ——, Patriarch of ——
begin: Most Reverend Lord; *or* Your Beatitude

patriarch (Roman Catholic Church)
address: His Excellency, the Patriarch (Archbishop) of ——
begin: Your Excellency

peer see duke, marquess, earl, baron

pope
address: To His Holiness Pope ——
begin: Most Holy Father; Your Holiness

postmaster general see cabinet officers

preacher general
address: The Venerable and Very Reverend Father —— ——, O.P., P.G.
begin: Very Reverend Father

premier of a province of Canada
address: The Honourable ——, Premier of the Province of ——
begin: Sir

president of a Canadian legislative council
address: The Honourable ——, The President of the Legislative Council
begin: Sir

president of a college *or* **university**
address: —— ——, LL.D. (*or* if he is not an LL.D., the initials of his highest degree), President of —— University (*or* President, —— University); *or* President —— ——
If he is a clergyman, Reverend —— ——, LL.D., President of —— University
begin: Dear Sir; *or* Dear President ——

president of a theological seminary
address: The Rev. President —— ——
begin: Dear Sir; *or* Dear President ——

president of state senate
address: The Honorable —— ——, President of the Senate of ——
begin: Sir

president of the Senate of the United States
address: The Honorable, The President of the Senate of the United States; *or* The Honorable —— ——, President of the Senate
begin: Sir

president of the United States
address: The President, The White House (*His Excellency* should not be used)
begin: Mr. President; *or* The President; *or* My Dear Mr. President

priest (Roman Catholic Church)
regular (except as noted below)
address: Reverend —— ——, O.S.M. (*or* other initials of his order)
begin: Dear Father —— (religious name)
Benedictine, Cistercian, *or* **canon regular**
address: The Reverend Dom —— ——, C.R.L. (*or* other initials of his order)
begin: Reverend Father; *or* Dear Father ——
Carthusian
address: The Venerable Father Dom —— ——, O.Cart.
begin: Venerable Father; *or* Dear Father ——
secular
address: Reverend —— ——, (followed by the initials of his degree)
begin: Reverend and dear Father ——

prime minister of Canada
address: The Right Honourable —— ——, P.C., Prime Minister of Canada
begin: Sir

prime minister of the United Kingdom
address: The Right Honourable —— ——, P.C., M.P., Prime Minister
begin: Sir

prince of the blood royal
address: His Royal Highness Prince —— (given name)
begin: Sir
see also duke of the blood royal

prince of Wales
address: His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales
begin: Sir; *or* May it please your Royal Highness

princess of the blood royal
address: Her Royal Highness the Princess —— (given name)
begin: Madam
see also duchess of the blood royal

princess of Wales
address: Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales
begin: Madam

prior, claustral
address: The Very Reverend Dom —— ——, O.C. (*or* other initials of his order); *or* The Very Reverend Father Prior, —— Abbey
begin: Very Reverend Father; *or* Dear Father Prior

prior, conventual
address: The Very Reverend the Prior of ——; *or* The Very Reverend Father (*or* Dom) —— ——, O.P. (*or* other initials of his order), Prior of ——; *or* The Very Reverend Father Guardian, O.F.M.; *or* The Very Rev. —— ——, Prior (*or* Guardian) of ——
begin: Very Reverend Father; *or* Dear Father Prior; *or* Very Reverend and Dear Father

prioress
address: The Very Reverend the Prioress of —— *or* The Very Reverend Mother (*or* Dame) ——, (followed by the initials of her order), Prioress of ——
begin: Very Reverend Mother; *or* Dear Mother Prioress

privy chamberlain to the pope same as papal chamberlain

privy councillor (British imperial)†
address: To the Right Honourable —— ——, P.C.
begin: Sir
If other titles are used, they should come after *The Right Honourable;* as, The Right Honourable Sir John ——

privy councillor (of Canada)
address: The Honourable ——
begin: Sir

professor in a college *or* **university**
address: Professor —— ——; *or* —— ——, Ph.D. (*or* LL.D., M.D., etc., using only the initials of his highest degree, if the degrees are in the same field), Professor of ——
begin: Dear Sir; *or* My dear Professor ——; *or* Dear Professor ——; *or* My dear Professor; etc.

professor in a theological seminary
address: The Reverend Professor —— ——; *or* The Rev. —— ——, D.D.; *or* Professor —— ——
begin: Dear Sir; *or* Dear Professor ——

protonotary apostolic
address: The Right Reverend Monsignor —— ——, Protonotary Apostolic (or P.A.)
begin: Right Reverend Monsignor; *or* Dear Monsignor ——

provincial of a religious order
address: The Very Reverend Father Provincial, O.F.M. (*or* other initials of his order); *or* The Very Reverend Father —— ——, Provincial, S.J.
begin: Very Reverend and dear Father

provost see lord provost

provost (Roman Catholic Church)
address: The Very Reverend Provost ——
begin: Very Reverend Provost; *or* Dear Provost ——

puisne judge of the Supreme Court of Canada
address: The Honourable Mr. Justice ——
begin: Sir

Q

queen
address: The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty; *or* Her Gracious Majesty, The Queen
begin: Madam; *or* May it please your Majesty

queen mother
address: Her Gracious Majesty Queen ——
begin: Madam; *or* May it please your Majesty

R

rabbi
address: Rabbi —— ——; *or* Rev. —— ——
begin: Reverend Sir; *or* Dear Sir; *or* My dear Rabbi ——; *or* Dear Rabbi ——
(if he holds a doctor's degree, Dr. may be substituted for Rabbi)

recorder
address: His Honour Recorder ——
begin: Sir

rector of a religious house *or* **of a seminary**
address: The Very Reverend —— ——, O.S.B. (*or* other initials of the order), Rector, Brothers of St. Francis (*or* Brother)
begin: Very Reverend and dear Father

representative see congressman

S

Scottish land court chairman same as lord of council and session

secretary of agriculture, state, defense, etc. see cabinet officer

secretary of state (England)
address: His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the —— Department (this may be preceded by hereditary title)
begin: according to rank (Your Grace, My Lord, etc.)

senator (Canadian)
address: The Honourable —— ——
begin: Dear Sir; Dear Senator ——; etc.

senator (U.S.)
address: The Honorable —— ——, The United

States Senate, Washington, D.C.
begin: Dear Sir; *or* My dear Senator

senior added to a father's name to distinguish him from a son of the same name; as, ——, Sr.; *or* ——, Sr., Ph.D.; *or* sr.

señor see Spanish common forms

serjeant-at-law
address: Serjeant ——; *or* Mr. Serjeant ——
begin: Sir; *or* Dear Sir

sister of a religious order
address: Sister ——, (followed by the initials of the order)
begin: Dear Sister; *or* My dear Sister; *or* Dear Sister ——; *or* My dear Sister ——

solicitor general (Canada)
address: The Honourable ——
begin: Sir

solicitor general (U.S.)
address: The Solicitor General
begin: Sir; *or* Dear Sir; *or* Dear Mr. ——

Spanish common forms
man
address: Señor —— ——
begin: Muy señor mío
pl. address: Señores —— ——
begin: Muy señores nuestros
married woman
address: Señora de ——; or Señora Doña —— de ——
begin: Muy estimada señora
unmarried woman
address: Señorita ——; *or* Señorita Doña —— ——
begin: Muy distinguida señorita

speaker of a provincial legislature of Canada
address: The Honourable ——, The Speaker of (name of legislature)
begin: Dear Mr. Speaker

speaker of the House of Commons (Canada)
address: The Honourable ——, The Speaker of the House of Commons
begin: Dear Mr. Speaker

speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States
address: The Honorable —— ——, Speaker of the House of Representatives
begin: Sir; *or* Mr. Speaker; *or* My dear Mr. Speaker

speaker of the Senate (Canada)
address: The Honourable —— ——, Speaker of the Senate
begin: Dear Mr. Speaker

state senator like senator (U.S.)

superior general of a religious community of priests
address: The Most Reverend Father —— (followed by the initials of the order), Superior General of the —— Fathers
begin: Most Reverend Father General

superior general of a religious order (female)
address: The Reverend Mother ——, (followed by the initials of her order), Superior General of ——
begin: Reverend Mother

Supreme Court see chief justice, associate justice

U

undersecretary of state (U.S.)
address: The Undersecretary of State; *or* The Honorable ——, Undersecretary of State
begin: Sir; *or* Dear Sir; *or* Dear Mr. ——

unmarried woman see common forms

V

vicar-general
address: The Right Reverend Monsignor —— ——, V.G.; *or* The Right Reverend the Vicar-General
begin: Right Reverend and dear Monsignor

vice-chancellor (law) same as judge (in England)

vice-consul similar to consul

vice-president
address: The Vice-President; *or* The Honorable, The Vice-President of the United States; *or* The Honorable —— ——, Vice-President of the United States
begin: Mr. Vice-President; *or* Sir; *or* My dear Mr. Vice-President

viceroy
address: His Excellency, The Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (The Viceroy of India)
begin: Excellency

viscount
address: The Right Honourable the Viscount ——; *or* The Viscount ——
begin: My Lord

viscountess
address: The Right Honourable the Viscountess ——; *or* The Viscountess ——
Begin: Madam

viscount's children same as baron's children

W

widow
(ordinarily addressed by her former title: as, Mrs. John Doe, not Mrs. Jane Doe, unless the latter form is preferred by the person herself; but if her married son, stepson, or grandson now holds a title of nobility formerly held by her late husband, the word dowager may be added before (or after) her title to distinguish her from the younger lady of the same title; as, Her Grace the Dowager Duchess of ——; The Dowager Lady ——; when such relationship does not exist, she may be distinguished by using her given name; as, The Right Honourable Jane, Countess of ——; the latter form is now generally preferred by ladies entitled to the distinction *Dowager;* officially a widow who remarries is not recognized as having any claim to bear the title of her deceased husband, but courtesy usually accords her this title)

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS DICTIONARY

AA .....Associate in Arts
AAS .....Associate in Applied Science
ab .....about
AB .....Bachelor of Arts
abbr .....abbreviation
Abd .....Abdias
AB in Th ..Bachelor of Arts in Theology
abl .....ablative
AC .....alternating current
acad .....academy
acc or *accus* .....accusative
act .....active
A.D. .....anno Domini
adj .....adjective
adv .....adverb
advt .....advertisement
Aeol .....Aeolic
AF .....Anglo-French
Afr .....Africa, African
Afrik .....Afrikaans
Agg .....Aggeus
agric .....agriculture
A.H. .....anno Hegirae
Ala .....Alabama
Alb .....Albanian
alter .....alteration
a.m. .....ante meridiem
AM .....amplitude modulation, Master of Arts
Am or *Amer* .....America, American
AmerF ....American French
AmerInd ...American Indian
AmerSp or *AmSp* ....American Spanish
anat .....anatomy
anthrop ....anthropological, anthropology
aor .....aorist
Apoc .....Apocalypse
appar .....apparently
Apr .....April
Ar .....Arabic
Aram .....Aramaic
archeol ....archeology
archit .....architecture
arith .....arithmetic
Ariz .....Arizona
Ark .....Arkansas
Arm .....Armenian
art .....article
assoc or *assn* .....association
ASSR .....Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic
Assyr .....Assyrian
Assyr-Bab ..Assyro-Babylonian
astrol .....astrology
astron .....astronomy
ASV .....American Standard Version
at.no. .....atomic number
attrib .....attributive, attributively
at.wt. .....atomic weight
aug .....augmentative
Aug .....August
Austral ....Australia
Av .....Avestan
AV .....Authorized Version
b .....born
BA .....Bachelor of Arts
Bab .....Babylonian
bacteriol ...bacteriology
BA(J) .....Bachelor of Arts in Journalism
Bar .....Baruch
BArch .....Bachelor of Architecture
bart .....baronet
BBC .....British Broadcasting Corporation
B.C. .....before Christ, British Columbia
BChE .....Bachelor of Chemical Engineering
BCS .....Bachelor of Commercial Science
BD .....Bachelor of Divinity
Bé .....Baumé
BE .....Bachelor of Education, Bachelor of Engineering
BEd .....Bachelor of Education
bef .....before
Bel .....Bel and the Dragon
Belg .....Belgian, Belgium
Beng .....Bengali
BFA .....Bachelor of Fine Arts
biochem ....biochemistry
biog .....biographical, biography
biol .....biologic, biological, biology
BJ .....Bachelor of Journalism
bk .....book
BldgE .....Building Engineer
BLitt or *BLit* .....Bachelor of Letters, Bachelor of Literature
bot .....botany
Braz .....Brazilian
Bret .....Breton
brig .....brigadier
Brit .....Britain, British
bros .....brothers
BS .....Bachelor of Science
BSA .....Bachelor of Science in Agriculture
BSc .....Bachelor of Science
BSEd or *BSE* .....Bachelor of Science in Education
BSFS .....Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service
BS in CE ..Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering, Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering
BS in ChE .Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering
BS in Ed ...Bachelor of Science in Education
BS in LS ..Bachelor of Science in Library Science, Bachelor of Science in Library Service
bt .....baronet
Btu .....British thermal unit, British thermal units
Bulg .....Bulgarian
bull .....bulletin
C .....centigrade
cal .....calendar, caliber
Calif .....California
Canad .....Canada, Canadian
CanF .....Canadian French
Cant .....Cantonese
cap .....capital, capitalized
capt .....captain
Cast .....Castilian
cat .....catalog
Catal .....Catalan
caus .....causative
cc .....cubic centimeter, cubic centimeters
CE .....Chemical Engineer, Civil Engineer
Celt .....Celtic

cen .....central
cent .....century
cgs .....centimeter-gram-second
Chald .....Chaldean
chem .....chemical, chemistry
Chin .....Chinese
Chron .....Chronicles
cm .....centimeter, centimeters
co .....company, county
col .....colonel
Col .....Colossians
coll .....college
colloq .....colloquial
Colo .....Colorado
com .....common
comb .....combination, combining
compar or *comp* .....comparative
conj .....conjunction
Conn .....Connecticut
cons .....consonant
constr .....construction
contr .....contraction
Copt .....Coptic
Cor .....Corinthians
Corn .....Cornish
corp .....corporation
cos .....cosine
CPA .....Certified Public Accountant
CRL .....Canons Regular of the Lateran
crystallog ..crystallography
cu .....cubic
cwt .....hundredweight
cycl .....cyclopedia
Czech .....Czechoslovak, Czechoslovakia, Czechoslovakian
d .....denarius, denarii, penny, pence
D .....Dutch
Dan .....Daniel, Danish
dat .....dative
D.C. .....District of Columbia
DC .....direct current
DD .....Doctor of Divinity
Dec .....December
def .....definite
Del .....Delaware
dept .....department
Deut .....Deuteronomy
dial .....dialect
dict .....dictionary
dim .....diminished, diminutive
DLitt or *DLit* .....Doctor of Letters, Doctor of Literature
dom .....dominant
Dor .....Doric
doz .....dozen
DP .....domestic prelate
dr .....debit, doctor
DSc .....Doctor of Science
Du .....Dutch
DV .....Douay Version
E .....east, eastern, English
eccl .....ecclesiastic, ecclesiastical
Eccles .....Ecclesiastes
Ecclus .....Ecclesiasticus
ecol .....ecological, ecology
econ .....economics
ed .....edition
EdM .....Master of Education
educ .....education, educational
EE .....Electrical Engineer
EFris .....East Frisian
e.g. .....exempli gratia
EGmc .....East Germanic
Egypt .....Egyptian
embryol ....embryology
emu .....electromagnetic unit, electromagnetic units
encyc .....encyclopedia
Eng .....England, English
engin .....engineering
Eph .....Ephesians
Esd .....Esdras
Esk .....Eskimo
esp .....especially
esq .....esquire
EST .....eastern standard time
Esth .....Esther
esu .....electrostatic unit, electrostatic units
etc .....et cetera
Eth .....Ethiopic
ethnol .....ethnology
eve .....evening
Exod .....Exodus
explan .....explanatory
Ezech .....Ezechiel
Ezek .....Ezekiel
f .....following
F .....Fahrenheit, French
FBI .....Federal Bureau of Investigation
Feb .....February
fem .....feminine
ff .....following
fig .....figurative, figuratively, figure
Finn .....Finnish
fl .....flourished
Fla .....Florida
Flem .....Flemish
FM .....frequency modulation
fo or *f* .....folio
f.o.b. .....free on board
fps .....foot-pound-second
fr .....from
Fr .....French
freq .....frequent, frequentative, frequently
Fri .....Friday
Fris .....Frisian
ft .....feet, foot
fund .....fundamental
fut .....future
g .....acceleration of gravity
G .....German
Ga .....Georgia
gal .....gallon, gallons
Gal .....Galatians
gaz .....gazette
gen .....general, genitive
Gen .....Genesis
geog .....geographic, geographical
geol .....geologic, geological, geology
geom .....geometry
Ger .....German
GI .....government issue
Gk .....Greek
gm .....gram, grams
Gmc .....Germanic
Goth .....Gothic
govt .....government
Gt Brit ....Great Britain
h .....hour, hours
Hab .....Habacuc, Habakkuk
Hag .....Haggai
handbk ....handbook
HE .....his excellency
Heb .....Hebrew, Hebrews
HG .....High German
hist .....historical, history
Hitt .....Hittite
HMS .....His Majesty's Ship, Her Majesty's Ship
hon .....honorable, honorary
hort .....horticulture
Hos .....Hosea
hp .....horsepower
ht .....height
Hung .....Hungarian
Icel .....Icelandic
i.e. .....that is
IE .....Indo-European
Ill .....Illinois
IMF .....International Monetary Fund
imit .....imitative
imp or *imper* .....imperative
imperf .....imperfect
in .....inch, inches
inc .....incorporated
incho .....inchoate
Ind .....Indiana
indic .....indicative
infin .....infinitive
infl .....influenced
inst .....institute, institution, institutional
instr .....instrumental
interj .....interjection
internat or *internatl* ..international
interrog ....interrogative
intrans .... intransitive
inv .....inversion
Ion .....Ionic
IPA .....International Phonetic Alphabet
Ir .....Irish
Ire .....Ireland
IrGael .....Irish Gaelic
irreg .....irregular
Isa .....Isaiah, Isaias
ISV .....International Scientific Vocabulary
It or *Ital* .....Italian
ital .....italic, italicized
Jan .....January
Jap .....Japanese
Jas .....James
Jav .....Javanese
Jer .....Jeremiah, Jeremias
jg .....junior grade
Jn .....John
JND .....just noticeable difference
Jos .....Josue
Josh .....Joshua
jour .....journal
JPS .....Jewish Publication Society
jr .....junior
Jth .....Judith
Judg .....Judges
K .....Kelvin (scale)
Kans .....Kansas
KC .....king's counsel
KCB .....Knight Commander of the Bath
kg .....kilogram, kilograms
kgps .....kilogram per second, kilograms per second
km .....kilometer, kilometers
KP .....kitchen police
kt .....knight
Ky .....Kentucky
L .....Latin
La .....Louisiana
LaF .....Louisiana French
Lam .....Lamentations
lang .....language, languages
lat .....latitude
lb .....pound, pounds
l.c. .....lowercase
Lev .....Leviticus
lg .....large
LG .....Low German
LGk .....Late Greek
LH .....lower half
LHD .....Doctor of Humanities
LHeb .....late Hebrew
lieut .....lieutenant
lit .....literal, literally, literary
Lith .....Lithuanian
LittB or *LitB* .....Bachelor of Letters, Bachelor of Literature
LittD or *LitD* .....Doctor of Letters, Doctor of Literature
Lk .....Luke
LL .....Late Latin
LLB .....Bachelor of Laws
LLD .....Doctor of Laws
loc .....locative
long .....longitude
LP .....long-playing
lt. .....lieutenant
ltd .....limited
LXX .....Septuagint
m .....meridies (L., noon), meter, meters, minute, minutes
M .....monsieur
MA .....Master of Arts
Macc .....Maccabees
Maced .....Macedonian
Mach .....Machabees
mag .....magazine
maj .....major
Mal .....Malachi, Malachias
manuf .....manufacture, manufacturing
Mar .....March
masc .....masculine
Mass .....Massachusetts
math .....mathematics
MBA .....Master of Business Administration
MBret .....Middle Breton
Md .....Maryland
MD .....Doctor of Medicine, Middle Dutch
Me .....Maine
ME .....Middle English
mech .....mechanical
med .....medical, medicine
MEd .....Master of Education
met .....metropolitan
meteorol ...meteorology
Mex .....Mexican, Mexico
MexSp .....Mexican Spanish
MF .....Master of Forestry, Middle French
mfg .....manufacturing
MFlem .....Middle Flemish
MFS .....Master of Foreign Study
mg .....milligram, milligrams
MGk .....Middle Greek
MHeb .....Middle Hebrew
MHG .....Middle High German
Mic .....Micah
Mich .....Micheas, Michigan
mil .....military
min .....minor, minute, minutes
Minn .....Minnesota
MIr .....Middle Irish
misc .....miscellaneous
Miss .....Mississippi
Mk .....Mark
mks .....meter-kilogram-second
ml .....milliliter, milliliters
ML .....Medieval Latin
MLA .....member of the legislative assembly
MLC .....member of the legislative council
MLG .....Middle Low German
Mlle .....mademoiselle
MLS .....Master of Library Science
mm .....millimeter, millimeters
Mme .....madame
Mo .....Missouri
mod .....modern
modif .....modification
Mon .....Monday
Mont .....Montana
MP .....member of parliament, military police
MPA .....Master of Public Administration
MPer .....Middle Persian
mph .....miles per hour
MPP .....member of provincial parliament
MS .....manuscript, Master of Science
MSc .....Master of Science
MS in LS ..Master of Science in Library Science
MSS .....manuscripts
MSw .....Middle Swedish
mt .....mount, mountain
Mt .....Matthew
MusM .....Master of Music
MW .....Middle Welsh
mythol .....mythology
n .....noun
N .....north, northern
Nah .....Nahum
nat or *natl* .....national
NATO .....North Atlantic Treaty Organization
naut .....nautical
N.C. .....North Carolina
NCAA .....National Collegiate Athletic Association
NCE .....New Catholic Edition
N. Dak. ....North Dakota
NE .....northeast
Nebr .....Nebraska
Neh .....Nehemiah
neut .....neuter
Nev .....Nevada
NewEng ...New England
NewZeal ...New Zealand
NGk .....New Greek
NGmc .....North Germanic
N.H. .....New Hampshire
NHeb .....New Hebrew
N.J. .....New Jersey
NL .....New Latin
N. Mex. ...New Mexico
no .....north, number
nom .....nominative
nonattrib ...nonattributively
nonstand ...nonstandard
Norw .....Norwegian
Nov .....November
n pl .....noun plural
N.S. .....Nova Scotia
NT .....New Testament
Num .....Numbers
numis .....numismatic, numismatical, numismatics
NW .....northwest
NWT .....Northwest Territories
N.Y. .....New York
NYC .....New York City
N.Z. .....New Zealand
O .....Ohio, old
Obad .....Obadiah
obs .....obsolete
OBulg .....Old Bulgarian
OC .....Cistercian Order
O Cart ....Carthusian Order
OCatal ....Old Catalan
occas .....occasionally
OCorn .....Old Cornish
Oct .....October
OD .....Old Dutch
ODan .....Old Danish
OE .....Old English
OF .....Old French
OFM .....Order of Friars Minor
OFris .....Old Frisian
OFrk .....Old Frankish
OHG .....Old High German
OIcel .....Old Icelandic
OIr .....Old Irish
OIt .....Old Italian
Okla .....Oklahoma
OL .....Old Latin
old-fash ....old-fashioned
OLF .....Old Low Franconian
ON .....Old Norse
ONF .....Old North French
ONorw .....Old Norwegian
Ont .....Ontario
o.p. .....out of print
OP .....Order of Preachers
OPer .....Old Persian
OPg .....Old Portuguese
OPol .....Old Polish
OProv .....Old Provençal
OPruss .....Old Prussian
Oreg .....Oregon
orig .....originally
ORuss .....Old Russian
OS .....Old Saxon
OSB .....Order of St. Benedict
Osc .....Oscan
OScan .....Old Scandinavian
OSD .....Order of St. Dominic
OSlav .....Old Slavic
OSM .....Order of the Servants of Mary
OSp .....Old Spanish
OSw .....Old Swedish
OT .....Old Testament
OTurk .....Old Turkish
OW .....Old Welsh
oz .....ounce, ounces
p .....page
Pa .....Pennsylvania
PA .....protonotary apostolic
PaG .....Pennsylvania German
paleontol ...paleontology
Par .....Paralipomenon

Abbreviations Used in This Dictionary

part . . . . . participle
pass . . . . . passive
pathol . . . . . pathology
PC . . . . . privy councilor
Pek . . . . . Pekingese
Per or *Pers* . . . . . Persian
perf . . . . . perfect
perh . . . . . perhaps
pers . . . . . person
Pet . . . . . Peter
pfc . . . . . private first class
Pg or *Port* . . . . . Portuguese
PG . . . . . preacher general
pharm . . . . . pharmacy
PhB . . . . . Bachelor of Philosophy
PhC . . . . . Pharmaceutical Chemist
PhD . . . . . Doctor of Philosophy
Phil . . . . . Philippians
Philem . . . . Philemon
philos . . . . . philosophy
PhilSp . . . . . Philippine Spanish
photog . . . . . photography
phr . . . . . phrase
physiol . . . . . physiology
pkg . . . . . package
pl . . . . . plural
p.m. . . . . . post meridiem
Pol . . . . . Polish
polit . . . . . political
pop . . . . . population
poss . . . . . possessive
pp . . . . . pages
prep . . . . . preposition
pres . . . . . present, president
Pr Man . . . . Prayer of Manasseh
prob . . . . . probably
pron . . . . . pronoun
prond . . . . . pronounced
pronunc . . . . pronunciation
protect . . . . protection
prov . . . . . province
Prov . . . . . Provencal, Proverbs
prox . . . . . proximo
Ps . . . . . Psalms
psychol . . . . psychology
PTA . . . . . Parent-Teacher Association
pub . . . . . public
publ . . . . . publication
rap . . . . . rapid
RD . . . . . rural dean
recd . . . . . received
redupl . . . . reduplication
ref . . . . . reference
refl . . . . . reflexive
rel . . . . . relative
relig . . . . . religion
rep . . . . . republic
repr . . . . . representatives
resp . . . . . respectively
ret . . . . . retired
rev . . . . . reverend, review
Rev . . . . . Revelation
rev. ed. . . . . . revised edition
R.I. . . . . . Rhode Island
Rom . . . . . Roman, Romance, Romanian, Romans
ROTC . . . . Reserve Officers' Training Corps
rpm . . . . . revolutions per minute
RR . . . . . railroad
RSV . . . . . Revised Standard Version
rt hon . . . . . right honorable
Rum . . . . . Rumanian
Russ . . . . . Russian
s . . . . . shilling, shillings
S . . . . . south, southern
S.A. . . . . . South Australia
Sam . . . . . Samuel
Sat . . . . . Saturday
SB . . . . . Bachelor of Science
Sc . . . . . Scots
S.C. . . . . . South Carolina
Scand . . . . . Scandinavian
ScD . . . . . Doctor of Science
ScGael . . . . Scottish Gaelic
sci . . . . . science
Scot . . . . . Scotland, Scottish
S. Dak. . . . . South Dakota
SE . . . . . southeast
sec . . . . . second, seconds, section
secy . . . . . secretary
Sem . . . . . Semitic
Sept . . . . . September
Serb . . . . . Serbian
Shak . . . . . Shakespeare
sin . . . . . sine
sing . . . . . singular
SJ . . . . . Society of Jesus
SJD . . . . . Doctor of Juridical Science
Skt . . . . . Sanskrit
Slav . . . . . Slavic
SM . . . . . Master of Science
so . . . . . south
soc . . . . . social, society
sociol . . . . . sociology
Sol . . . . . Solomon
Soph . . . . . Sophonias
Sp or *Span* . . . . . Spanish
specif . . . . . specific, specifically
sp. gr. . . . . . specific gravity
sq . . . . . square
sr . . . . . senior
SSR . . . . . Soviet Socialist Republic
st . . . . . saint, street
stand . . . . . standard
stat . . . . . statute
STB . . . . . Bachelor of Sacred Theology, Bachelor of Theology
STD . . . . . Doctor of Sacred Theology
ste . . . . . saint
STL . . . . . Licentiate of Sacred Theology
STM . . . . . Master of Sacred Theology, Master of Theology
subj . . . . . subjunctive
substand . . . substandard
Sun . . . . . Sunday
superl . . . . superlative
supp . . . . . supplement
Sus . . . . . Susanna
Sw or *Swed* . . . . . Swedish
SW . . . . . southwest
syll . . . . . syllable
syn . . . . . synonym, synonymy
Syr . . . . . Syriac
Tag . . . . . Tagalog
tech . . . . . technical, technological, technology
technol . . . . technology
tel . . . . . telegraph, telephone
Tenn . . . . . Tennessee
Tex . . . . . Texas
ThD . . . . . Doctor of Theology
theol . . . . . theological
Thess . . . . . Thessalonians
Thurs . . . . . Thursday
Tim . . . . . Timothy
Tit . . . . . Titus
Tob . . . . . Tobias
Toch . . . . . Tocharian
Toch A . . . . Tocharian A
Toch B . . . . Tocharian B
trans or *transl* . . . . . translated, translation
Tues . . . . . Tuesday
Turk . . . . . Turkish
TV . . . . . television
TVA . . . . . Tennessee Valley Authority
UH . . . . . upper half
Ukr . . . . . Ukrainian
Umbr . . . . . Umbrian
UN . . . . . United Nations
UNESCO . . United Nations' Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
univ . . . . . university
US . . . . . United States
USA . . . . . United States of America
USN . . . . . United States Navy
USNR . . . . . United States Naval Reserve
USS . . . . . United States Ship
USSR . . . . . Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
usu . . . . . usually
v . . . . . velocity, verb, versus, vowel
Va . . . . . Virginia
var . . . . . variant
vb . . . . . verb
VF . . . . . vicar forane
VG . . . . . vicar-general
vi . . . . . verb intransitive
v imper . . . . verb imperative
viz . . . . . videlicet
VL . . . . . Vulgar Latin
voc . . . . . vocative
vocab . . . . . vocabulary
vol . . . . . volume
vt . . . . . verb transitive
Vt . . . . . Vermont
VT . . . . . variable time
W . . . . . Welsh, west, western
Wall . . . . . Walloon
Wash . . . . . Washington
Wed . . . . . Wednesday
WFris . . . . . West Frisian
WGmc . . . . . West Germanic
Wis or *Wisc* . . . . . Wisconsin
Wisd . . . . . Wisdom
Wisd Sol . . . Wisdom of Solomon
W. Va. . . . . West Virginia
Wyo . . . . . Wyoming
YMCA . . . . Young Men's Christian Association
yr . . . . . year
yrbk . . . . . yearbook
YWCA . . . . Young Women's Christian Association
Zach . . . . . Zacharias
Zech . . . . . Zechariah
Zeph . . . . . Zephaniah
zool . . . . . zoological, zoology

SPECIAL SYMBOLS

[ ] . . . . boldface square brackets contain etymology
: . . . . . boldface symbolic colon signals a definition or sense
~ . . . . . boldface or lightface swung dash stands for the preceding boldface entry word
〈 〉 . . . . lightface angle brackets contain a verbal illustration
= . . . . . lightface double hyphen at end-of-line is a hyphen that should be retained
☞ . . . . fistnote (see definition)
+ . . . . . plus sign in etymology joins words or word elements
† . . . . . dagger precedes a death date

ADDENDA SECTION
WEBSTER'S THIRD NEW INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY

a* *abbr* atto- *herein*

abe·lian group \ə¦bēlyən-, -lēən-\ *n, usu cap A* [*Abelian* fr. Niels *Abel* †1829 Norw. mathematician + E *-ian*] : a group whose elements obey the commutative law

ab·la·tor \a'blād·ə(r\ *n* -s [LL, one that removes, fr. *ablatus* (suppletive past part. of *auferre* to remove) + *-or* — more at ABLATE] : a material that provides thermal protection (as to the outside of a spacecraft on reentry) by ablating

abort* *n* : the premature termination of an action, procedure, or mission relating to a rocket or spacecraft ⟨a launch ~⟩

ab·scis·ic acid \(¸)ab,sizik-\ *n* [*abscisic* fr. *abscision* + *-ic*] : a plant hormone widespread in nature and made synthetically that promotes leaf abscission and dormancy and has an inhibitory effect on cell elongation — called also *abscisin II*, *dormin*

ab·scis·in *also* **ab·scis·sin** \ab'sis²n\ *n* -s [*abscision*, *abscission* + *-in*] : any of a group of plant regulatory substances that tend to promote leaf abscission and inhibit various growth processes — compare ABSCISIC ACID *herein*

absurd* *adj* **1** : having no rational or orderly relationship to man's life : MEANINGLESS; *also* : lacking order or values ⟨adults have condemned them to live in what must seem like an ~ universe —Joseph Featherstone⟩ **2** : dealing with the absurd or with absurdism

absurd *n* -s [*absurd*, adj. (herein)] : the state or condition in which man exists in an irrational and meaningless universe and in which man's life has no meaning outside his own existence

ab·surd·ism \əb'sərd,izəm, ab-, -'z-, -ōd-\ *n* -s [*absurd* (herein) + *-ism*] : a philosophy based on the belief that man exists in an irrational and meaningless universe and that his search for order brings him into conflict with his universe

¹ab·surd·ist \-dəst\ *n* -s [*absurd* (herein) + *-ist*] : a proponent or adherent of absurdism; *esp* : a writer who deals with absurdist themes

²absurdist *adj* : of, relating to, or dealing with absurdism

aca·de·mese \ə¦kadə¦mēz, ¦akəd-, -ēs\ *n* -s [*academic* + *²-ese*] : a style of writing held to be characteristic of those in academic life ⟨the usual scholarly biography written in barbarous ~ —Dwight Macdonald⟩

acceptable* *adj* : capable of being endured : SUPPORTABLE, TOLERABLE ⟨maximum ~ damage from nuclear attack⟩

ace·tyl·cho·lin·es·ter·ase \ə¦sēd·ᵊl¦kōlə¦nestə,rās, ¦asəd-, -kəl-, -āz\ *n* : ACETYLCHOLINE ESTERASE

ace·tyl–co A \ə'sēd·ᵊl'kō'ā; 'asəd·ᵊl-, -ə,tēl-\ *abbr or n* -s [*acetyl* coenzyme *A*] acetyl coenzyme A

acid* *n* : LSD *herein*

acidhead \'ˢˢ,ˢˢ\ *n* [*acid* (herein) + *head*] : a person who frequently uses LSD

acid rock *n* [*acid* (herein) + *rock*] : rock music with lyrics having cryptic references to a drug (as LSD)

acoustic* *or* **acoustical*** *adj* : of, relating to, or being a musical instrument whose sound is not electronically modified

acquire* *vt* : to locate and hold (a desired object) in a detector ⟨~ a target by radar⟩

ac·ti·no·spec·ta·cin \ˌaktənō'spektəsən\ *n* -s [*actino*mycete + NL *spectabilis* (specific epithet of *Streptomyces spectabilis*, species of actinomycete) + E *-mycin*] : an antibiotic from a soil actinomycete (*Streptomyces spectabilis*) that is notably effective against penicillin-resistant venereal infections

action* *n* : the most vigorous, productive, or exciting activity in a particular field, area, or group ⟨go where the ~ is⟩

action painting *n* : nonrepresentational painting marked esp. by thickly textured surfaces and by the use of improvised techniques (as dribbling, splattering, or smearing) to create apparently accidental pictorial effects — **action painter** *n*

activation analysis *n* : a method of analyzing for chemical elements in a material by bombarding it with nuclear particles to produce radioactive isotopes whose radiations indicate the identity and quantity of the parent elements

additive identity *n* : an identity element (as 0 in the group of whole numbers under the operation of addition) that in a given mathematical system leaves unchanged any element to which it is added

additive inverse *n* : a number of opposite sign with respect to a given number so that addition of the two numbers gives zero ⟨the *additive inverse* of 4 is −4⟩

ad·e·no·vi·rus \ˌad²nō¦vīrəs\ *n* [*adeno*id + *-o-* + *virus*] : any of a group of viruses that contain deoxyribonucleic acid, may cause respiratory disorders, and include at least two capable of inducing malignant tumors in experimental animals — compare PICORNAVIRUS *herein* — **ad·e·no·vi·ral** \-rəl\ *adj*

¹admass \'ˢˢ,ˢˢ\ *n* -ES [*advertising* + *mass*] : a system of commercial marketing that attempts to influence great masses of consumers by mass-media advertising; *also* : a society thus influenced

²admass *adj* : of, characterized by, or influenced by admass

ADP* *abbr* automatic data processing

adre·no·cor·ti·co·steroid \ə¦drēnō,kȯrd·əkō'sti(ə),rȯid, -ren-, -te(-\ *n* [*adrenocortical* + *-o-* + *steroid*] : a steroid obtained from or resembling those of the adrenal cortex

aer·on·o·my \a(ə)'ränəmē, e(ə)'-, ¸āə'-\ *n* -ES [*aer-* + *-nomy*] : a science that deals with the physics and chemistry of the upper atmosphere — **aer·on·o·mer** \-mə(r\ *n* — **aer·o·nom·ic** \ˌa(ə)rə'nämik, ˌe(ə)r-, ¸āər-\ *adj*

aero·space \'a(ə)rə,spās, 'e(ə)r-, 'āər-\ *n* [*aer-* + *space*] **1** : space comprising the earth's atmosphere and the space beyond **2** : a branch of physical science that deals with aerospace **3** : the industry involved in the manufacture of aerospace vehicles — **aerospace** *adj*

aero·train \-rə-,trān\ *n* [*aer-* + *train*] : a propeller-driven vehicle that rides on a cushion of air astride a single rail

af·la·tox·in \ˌaflə'täksən\ *n* [NL *Aspergillus flavus*, species of mold + E *toxin*] : a complex of toxic substances that develop (as in corn or oilseed meals) through the action of a mold (*Aspergillus flavus*), are implicated in the death of livestock, and are suspected of being carcinogenic

a–frame* *n, cap A* [fr. the resemblance of the shape of the facade to a capital A] : a building (as a house) that typically has a triangular front and rear wall and a roof reaching to or nearly to the level of the ground floor

af·ro \'a(ˌ)frō\ *adj, usu cap* [*Afro-*] : having the hair shaped into a round bushy mass ⟨an *Afro* hairstyle⟩ — **afro** *n* -s *usu cap*

af·ro–asian \ˌˢˢ¦ˢˢ\ *adj, usu cap both As* [*Afr-* + *Asian*] : of or relating to a group of African and Asian nations that cooperate in the solution of common political problems

af·ter·tax \'aftər¦taks, ¦aa-, ¦ai-, ¦ä-\ *adj* [*²after* + *tax*] : remaining after payment of taxes and esp. of income tax

ag·gior·na·men·to \ə,jȯrnə'men(ˌ)tō\ *n* -s [It, fr. *aggiornare* to bring up to date, fr. *a* to (fr. L *ad-*) + *giorno* day, fr. LL *diurnum* — more at JOURNEY] : a bringing up to date ⟨called a Council with ~ as its theme —*Times Lit. Supp.*⟩

¹a–go–go \ä'gō(ˌ)gō\ *n* -s [*Whisky à Gogo*, café and discotheque in Paris, France, fr. F *whisky* whisky + *à gogo* galore, fr. MF] **1** : DISCOTHEQUE *herein* **2** : a usu. small intimate nightclub for dancing to live music and esp. rock 'n' roll

²a–go–go *adj* **1** : of, relating to, or being an a-go-go or the music or dances performed there ⟨*a-go-go* dancers⟩ **2** : characterized by rapid frenetic movement or tempo ⟨the *a-go-go* rhythm of change in our century —Ted Palmer⟩ **3** : being in the latest style ⟨psychiatry *a-go-go* —Charles Schulz⟩

ago·ra \ˌägə'rä\ *n, pl* **ago·rot** \-rōt\ [NHeb *āgōrāh*, fr. Heb, a small coin] **1** : a monetary unit of Israel representing ¹⁄₁₀₀ of a pound — see MONEY table *in the Dict* **2** : a coin representing one agora

agrav·ic \(')ā'gravik\ *adj* [*²a-* + *gravity* + *-ic*] : of or relating to a theoretical condition of no gravitation

ai·ki·do \ˌīkē'dō, -kə-\ *n* [Jap *aikidō*, fr. *ai-* together, mutual + *ki* spirit + *dō* district, province, art] : a Japanese art of self-defense employing locks and holds and utilizing the principle of nonresistance to cause an opponent's own momentum to work against him

air bag *n* : a bag designed to inflate automatically in front of riders in an automobile in case of accident to protect them from pitching forward into solid parts

air battery *n* [so called fr. the oxidation's being produced by exposure to pressurized air] : a rechargeable battery in which current is generated as a result of oxidation of a metal

airbus \'ˢˢ,ˢˢ\ *n* : a short-range or medium-range subsonic jet passenger airplane

air cavalry *or* **air cav** \-'kav\ *n* **1** : an army unit that is transported in air vehicles and carries out the traditional cavalry missions of reconnaissance and security **2** : an army unit that is esp. equipped and adapted for transportation in air vehicles but is organized for sustained ground combat

air–cushion vehicle *also* **air–cushioned vehicle** *n* : GROUND-EFFECT MACHINE *herein*

air door *n* : a temperature-controlled strong usu. upward current of air used instead of a door

air·mo·bile \'a(ə)rmō,bēl, 'e(-\ *adj* [*air* + *mobile*, adj.] : of, relating to, or being a military unit whose members are transported to combat areas usu. by helicopter

air·tel \'a(ə)r,tel, 'e(-\ *n* -s [*air* + *hotel*] : a hotel situated at or close to an airport

al·dos·ter·on·ism \alˈdästəˌrōˌnizəm, ˌaldōstəˈr-\ *n* -s [*aldosterone* + *-ism*] : a condition characterized by excessive aldosterone and marked by excessive loss of body potassium, muscular weakness, and elevated blood pressure

ale·a·tor·ic \ˌālēəˈtȯrik, -tōr-\ *adj* [L *aleator* dice player, gambler (fr. *alea* dice game) + E *-ic*] *of music* : characterized by chance or random elements

aleatory* *adj* : ALEATORIC *herein*

alf·vén wave \ˌal(f),vān-, -ven-\ *n, usu cap A* [after Hannes *Alfvén*, 20th cent. Swed. astrophysicist] : a transverse electromagnetic wave that propagates along lines of force in a magnetized plasma

al·gol \'al,gōl, -gȯl\ *n* -s *usu cap A or all cap* [*algo*rithmic *l*anguage] : an algebraic and logical language for programming a computer

algorithm* *n* : a problem-solving procedure (as for finding the greatest common divisor) involving a finite number of often repetitive steps or operations — **algorithmic*** *adj* — **al·go·rith·mi·cal·ly** \-mək(ə)lē, -mēk-, -li\ *adv*

ali·es·ter·ase \ˌalēˈestəˌrās, -āz\ *n* [*aliphatic* + *esterase*] : an esterase that promotes the hydrolysis of ester links esp. in aliphatic esters of low molecular weight

al·lo·ge·ne·ic \ˌaləjəˈnēik\ *also* **al·lo·gen·ic** \-ˈjenik\ *adj* [*allogeneic* fr. *all-* + *-geneic* (as in *syngeneic* — herein); *allogenic* fr. *all-* + *-genic*] : sufficiently unlike genetically to interact antigenically — compare SYNGENEIC *herein*

al·lo·graft \'alōˌˢˢ\ *n* [*all-* + *graft;* fr. its being a graft from another individual] : HOMOGRAFT

al·lo·ster·ic \ˌaləˈsterik, -ti(ə)r-\ *adj* [*all-* + *steric*] : of, relating to, or being alteration of the activity of a protein (as an enzyme) by combination with another substance at a point other than the chemically active site

alpha–adrenergic \ˈˢˢ,ˢˢ¦ˢˢ\ *adj* : of, relating to, or being an alpha-receptor ⟨*alpha-adrenergic* blocking action⟩

alpha decay *n* : the radioactive decay of an atomic nucleus by emission of an alpha particle

alpha helix *n* : the coiled structural arrangement of many proteins consisting of a single spiral amino-acid chain that is stabilized by hydrogen bonds

al·pha·met·ic \ˌalfəˈmetik\ *n* -s [*alpha*betic + arith*metic*] : a mathematical puzzle consisting of a numerical computation with letters substituted for numbers which are to be restored through mathematical reasoning

alpha–receptor \'ˢˢ,ˢˢ\ *n* : a receptor that responds to or is activated by epinephrine and levarterenol but not isoproterenol and that is associated with vasoconstriction, relaxation of intestinal muscle, and contraction of the myometrium, nictitating membrane, iris dilator muscle, and splenic smooth muscle — compare BETA-RECEPTOR *herein*

aman·ta·dine \ə'mantəˌdēn\ *n* -s [*amantad-* (fr. anagram of *adamantane*) + *amine*] : an antiviral drug used esp. to prevent infection (as by an influenza virus) by interfering with virus penetration into host cells

am·bi·sex·trous \ˌambəˈsekstrəs\ *adj* [*ambi-* + *sex* + *-trous* (as in *ambidextrous*)] **1** : not distinguishable as male or female : common to males and females ⟨~ clothing⟩ **2** : including both sexes ⟨an ~ party⟩

am·bu·la·to·ri·ly \ˌambyələˈtōrəlē, -tȯr-, -li\ *adv* [*ambulatory* + *-ly*] : as or in a manner suitable to an ambulatory patient

am·er·asian \ˌamər¦ā'ə\ *n, cap* [*Amer-* + *Asian*] : a person of mixed American and Asian descent; *esp* : one whose mother is Asian and whose father is American

am·e·thop·ter·in \ˌamə'thäpt(ə)rən\ *n* -s [*amin-* + *meth-* + *pteroyl* + *-in*] : METHOTREXATE *herein*

am·i·trip·ty·line \ˌamə'triptəˌlēn\ *n* -s [origin unknown] : an antidepressant drug

am·i·trole \'amə,trōl\ *n* -s [*amin-* + *triazole*] : an herbicide that is esp. effective in controlling poison ivy

am·nio·cen·te·sis \ˌamnēōsen·'tēsəs\ *n* [NL, fr. *amnio-* + *centesis*] : the surgical insertion of a hollow needle through the abdominal wall and uterus of a pregnant female and into the amnion esp. to obtain amniotic fluid for the determination of sex or chromosomal abnormality in the fetus

am·pho·ter·i·cin \ˌamfə'terəsən\ *n* -s [*amphoteric* + *-in*] : either of two antibiotic drugs obtained from a soil actinomycete (*Streptomyces nodosus*) of which one (**amphotericin B**) is useful against deep-seated and systemic fungal infections

am·pi·cil·lin \ˌampəˈsilən\ *n* -s [*amin-* + *penicillin*] : an antibiotic of the penicillin group that is effective against gram-negative bacteria

anagenesis* *n* : essentially progressive and linear evolutionary change — **ana·ge·net·i·cal·ly** \ˌanəjəˈnedəkə(l)lē\ *adv*

an·chorman \'ˢˢ,man\ *n.* **1** : a newscaster who coordinates the related activities of other usu. remotely located broadcasters (as at a political convention) so as to produce a coherent program **2** : MODERATOR 2d

angel* *n* : a radar echo caused by something not visually discernible

an·gio·ten·sin \ˌanjēōˈten(t)sən\ *n* -s [blend of *angiotonin* and *hypertensin*] : a kinin with a marked vasoconstrictive action that occurs in two forms of which one (**angiotensin II** \-'tü\) is used in the treatment of shock

an·gio·ten·sin·ase \-səˌnās, -āz\ *n* [*angiotensin* + *-ase*] : any of several enzymes of the blood that hydrolyze angiotensin

angry young man *n* [*Angry Young Man*, autobiography (1951) of Leslie A. Paul *b*1905 Eng. journalist] : one of a group of mid-20th century British authors whose works express the bitterness of the lower classes toward the established sociopolitical system and toward the mediocrity and hypocrisy of the middle and upper classes

angular perspective *n* : TWO-POINT PERSPECTIVE

annihilate* *vb* ~ *vi* : to undergo annihilation ⟨an elementary particle and its antiparticle ~ when they meet⟩

annual percentage rate *n* : a measure of the annual percentage cost of consumer credit (as in installment buying or a charge account) that is required by law to appear on statements of credit accounts and is variously computed but always takes into consideration the amount financed, the amount of the finance charges, and the schedule of repayment

an·ovulant \(')an +\ *n* -s [*an-* + *ovulation* + *-ant*] : an anovulatory drug — **anovulant** *adj*

anovulatory* *adj* : suppressing ovulation

answering service *n* : a commercial service that answers telephone calls for its clients

an·thro·po·sere \an'thrōpəˌsi(ə)r, 'an(t)thrəp-\ *n* -s [*anthrop-* + *⁵sere*] : NOOSPHERE *herein*

an·ti·allergic *also* **an·ti·allergenic** \ˌan,tī, ¦antē, ¦antə +\ *adj* [*¹anti-* + *allergic*] : tending to relieve or control allergic symptoms — **antiallergic** *also* **antiallergenic** *n*

an·ti–art \"+,-\ *n* [*anti-* + *art*] : art based on premises antithetical to traditional or popular art forms; *specif* : DADA

an·ti·authoritarian \" +\ *adj* [*¹anti-* + *authoritarian*] : opposing or hostile to authoritarians or authoritarianism — **an·ti·authoritarianism** \" +\ *n*

an·ti·auxin \" +\ *n* [*¹anti-* + *auxin*] : a plant substance that opposes or suppresses the natural effect of an auxin

an·ti·ballistic missile \" +-\ *n* : a missile for intercepting and destroying a ballistic missile

an·ti·baryon \" +\ *n* -s [*¹anti-* + *baryon* (herein)] : an antiparticle of a baryon (as an antiproton or antineutron)

an·ti·cancer *also* **an·ti·cancerous** \" +\ *adj* [*¹anti-* + *cancer*] : used or effective against cancer ⟨~ drugs⟩

an·ti·coagulate \" +\ *vt* [*¹anti-* + *coagulate*] : to treat with an anticoagulant — **an·ti·coagulation** \" +\ *n* — **an·ti·coagulative** \" +\ *adj*

an·ti·codon \" +\ *n* [*¹anti-* + *codon* (herein)] : a sequence of three nucleotides in transfer RNA that is complementary with a codon of messenger RNA

an·ti·convulsant \" +\ *or* **an·ti·convulsive** \" +\ *adj* [*¹anti-* + *convulsant* or *convulsive*] : used or tending to control or ward off convulsions (as in epilepsy) — **anticonvulsant** *n*

an·ti·crop \" +\ *adj* [*¹anti-* + *crop*] : destructive to or directed against crops ⟨~ chemical weapons⟩

an·ti·depressant \ˌan,tī, ¦antē, ¦antə +\ *or* **an·ti·depressive** \" +\ *adj* [*¹anti-* + *depressant* or *depressive*] : used or tending to relieve psychic depression — **antidepressant** *n*

an·ti·deuteron \" +\ *n* [*¹anti-* + *deuteron*] : an antiparticle that consists of one antielectron and one antiproton

an·ti·dumping \" +\ *adj* [*¹anti-* + *dumping*] : designed to prevent the importation and sale of foreign goods at prices substantially lower than domestic prices ⟨~ tariffs⟩

an·ti·electron \" +\ *n* [*¹anti-* + *electron*] : POSITRON

an·ti·emetic \" +\ *adj* [*¹anti-* + *emetic*] : used or tending to prevent or check vomiting — **antiemetic** *n*

an·ti·environment \" +\ *n* [*¹anti-* + *environment*] : something (as a work of art) that points up aspects of the current environment by contrast — **an·ti·environmental** \" +\ *adj*

an·ti·fertility \" +\ *adj* [*¹anti-* + *fertility*] : intended to control excess or unwanted fertility : CONTRACEPTIVE

an·ti·flu·o·ri·da·tion·ist \" + ˌflůrə¦dāsh(ə)nəst, -ōr-, -ȯr-\ *n* [*¹anti-* + *fluoridation* + *-ist*] : one vigorously opposed to the fluoridation of public water supplies

an·ti·foul·ant \" + 'faůlənt\ *n* -s [*¹anti-* + *⁴foul* + *¹-ant*] : a substance designed to prevent, reduce, or eliminate fouling

¹an·ti·gravity \" +\ *adj* [*¹anti-* + *gravity*] : reducing or canceling the effect of gravity or protecting against it

²antigravity \"\ *n* : a hypothetical effect resulting from cancellation or reduction of a gravitational field

an·ti–hero \ˌan,tī, ¦antē, ¦antə +\ *n* -ES [*¹anti-* + *hero*] : a protagonist who is notably lacking in heroic qualities (as resoluteness or effectiveness) — **an·ti–heroic** \" +\ *adj*

an·ti·hypertensive \" +\ *adj* [*¹anti-* + *hypertension* + *-ive*] : used or effective against high blood pressure

an·ti·lepton \" +\ *n* [*¹anti-* + *³lepton*] : an antiparticle (as a positron or an antineutrino) of a lepton

¹an·ti·missile \" +\ *adj* [*¹anti-* + *²missile*] : designed as a defense against missiles ⟨an ~ system⟩

²antimissile \"\ *n* : ANTIMISSILE MISSILE *herein*

an·ti·missile missile \" +-\ *n* : a missile for intercepting another missile in flight

an·ti·mitotic \ˌan,tī, ¦antē, ¦antə+\ *adj* [*¹anti-* + *mitotic*] : inhibiting division of the cell nucleus — **antimitotic** *n*

an·ti·mutagenic \" +\ *adj* [*¹anti-* + *mutagenic*] : decreasing the frequency of mutation either by inhibiting the action of mutagens or reducing spontaneous mutation

an·ti·novel \" +\ n [*¹anti-* + *¹novel*] : a work of fiction that lacks most or all of the traditional features (as coherent structure or character development) of the novel —**an·ti·novelist** \" +\ *n*

an·ti·nuclear \" +\ *adj* [*¹anti* + *nucleus* + *-ar*] : tending to react with cell nuclei ⟨~ antibodies⟩

an·ti·particle \ˌan,tī, ¦antē, ¦antə +\ *n* [*¹anti-* + *particle*] : an elementary particle identical to another elementary particle in mass but opposite to it in electric and magnetic properties

an·ti·pollution \ˌan,tī, ¦antē, ¦antə+\ *adj* [*¹anti-* + *pollution*] : intended to prevent, reduce, or eliminate pollution

an·ti·poverty \" +\ *adj* [*¹anti-* + *poverty*] : of or relating to action designed to relieve poverty ⟨~ programs⟩

an·ti·psychotic \" +\ *adj* [*¹anti-* + *psychotic*] : tending to alleviate psychosis or psychotic states ⟨an ~ drug⟩ — **antipsychotic** *n*

an·ti·racism \" +\ *n* [*¹anti-* + *racism*] : adherence to the view that racism is a social evil

an·ti·science \" +\ *n* [*¹anti-* + *science*] : a system or attitude or cult that rejects scientific methods or the value of science to man; *also* : one that denies the value of basic scientific research — **an·ti·scientific** \" +\ *adj*

an·ti·scientism \" +\ *n* [*anti-* + *scientist* + *-ism*] : ANTI-SCIENCE *herein*

an·ti·sex *or* **an·ti·sexual** \" +\ *adj* [*¹anti-* + *sex* or *sexual*] : antagonistic toward sex; *esp* : tending to reduce or eliminate the sex drive or sexual activity

an·ti·smog \" +\ *adj* [*¹anti-* + *smog*] : designed to reduce pollutants contributing to smog ⟨~ devices on automobiles⟩

an·ti·static \" +\ *adj* [*anti-* + *static*, n.] : preventing the buildup of static electricity : reducing or removing static electricity — **antistatic** *n*

an·ti·tuberculous *also* **an·ti·tuberculosis** *or* **an·ti·tubercular** \" +\ *adj* [*antituberculous* fr. *¹anti-* + *tuberculosis* + *-ous*; *antituberculosis* fr. *¹anti-* + *tuberculosis*; *antitubercular* fr. *¹anti-* + *tuberculosis* + *ar*] : used against tuberculosis

an·ti·tumor *also* **an·ti·tumoral** \"+\ *adj* [*antitumor* fr. *¹anti-* + *tumor;* *antitumoral* fr. *¹anti-* + *tumor* + *-al*] : ANTI-CANCER *herein*

ape *adj* [*¹ape*] : being beyond restraint : CRAZY, MAD — usu. used in the phrase *go ape* ⟨went ~ over another girl —*Boston Sunday Globe Mag.*⟩

aperture card *n* : a punched card for data processing in which one or more frames of a microfilmed document are mounted

aph·o·late \'afəˌlāt\ *n* -s [prob. fr. *az-* + *phosphine* + *-late* (of unknown origin)] : a chemosterilant esp. effective in controlling houseflies

aph·ox·ide \(')a¦fäkˌsīd *also* -ksəd\ *n* [prob. fr. *az-* + *phosphine* + *oxide*] : TEPA *herein*

apo·apsis \ˌapō +\ *n* [NL, fr. *apo-* + *apsis*] : the apsis that is the greatest distance from the center of attraction

apo·cyn·thi·on \ˌapəˈsin(t)thēən\ *n* -s [NL, fr. *apo-* + *Cynthia*, goddess of the moon (fr. Gk *Kynthia*) + *-on* (as in *aphelion*)] : APOLUNE *herein*

apo·lune \'apəˌlün\ *n* -s [*apo-* + L *luna* moon — more at LUNAR] : the point in the path of a body orbiting the moon that is farthest from the center of the moon

apo·se·le·ne \ˌapōsəˈlēnē, -pəs-\ *n* -s [ISV *apo-* + *-selene* (fr. Gk *selēnē* moon) — more at SELEN-] : APOLUNE *herein*

apo·se·le·ni·um \-nēəm\ *n* -s [NL, fr. Gk *apo-* apo- + *selēnē* moon + NL *-ium* (alter. of *-ion* — as in *aphelion*) — more at SELEN-] : APOLUNE *herein*

¹après–ski \ˌä,prāˈskē\ *n* [F *après* after + *ski* ski, skiing — more at APRÈS] : social activity (as at a ski lodge) after a day's skiing

²après–ski *adj* : of, relating to, or suitable for après-ski

aqua·naut \'akwəˌnȯt, 'äk-, -nůt\ *n* -s [*aqua-* + *-naut* (as in *astronaut*)] : one that lives beneath the surface of water for

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an extended period and carries on activities both inside and outside his underwater shelter

aqua·plan·ing \-,plāniŋ\ *n* -s [*aquaplane* + *-ing*; fr. the riding of the tires on water like that of an aquaplane] : HYDROPLANING *herein*

arabesque* *n* : a contrived intricate pattern of verbal expression ⟨~s of alliteration —C.E.Montague⟩

ar·bo·vi·rus \ˈärbəˌvīrəs\ *n* [*ar*thropod-*b*orne *virus*] : any of various arthropod-borne viruses that cause encephalitis

arc-jet engine *n* : a rocket engine in which the propellant gas is heated by an electric arc

area code *n* [fr. its designation of major subdivisions of the territory of the United States] : a 3-digit code used in dialing long-distance telephone calls

arm-twist·ing \ˈ=ˌ==\ *n* : the use of direct personal pressure in order to achieve a desired end ⟨for all the *arm-twisting*, the . . . vote on the measure was unexpectedly tight —*Newsweek*⟩

ar·res·tant \əˈrestənt\ *n* -s [ˈ*arrest* + *-ant*] : one that checks a course or activity; *esp* : a substance that causes an insect to stop and begin to feed

art·mo·bile \ˈärtmōˌbēl\ *n* [*art* + *-mobile*] : a trailer that houses an art collection designed for exhibition on road tours

asphalt jungle *n* : a big city or a specified part of a big city ⟨the *asphalt jungle* around Times Square —E.R.Bentley⟩

as·sem·blage* \əˈsemblij, -ləj; ˌaˌsā(ⁿ)mˈbläzh, ˌaˌs-, -säⁿˈb-, -läzh\ *n* **1** : an artistic composition made from scraps, junk, and odds and ends (as of paper, cloth, wood, stone, or metal) **2** : the art of making assemblages — **as·sem·blag·ist** \-jəst, -zhə-\ *n*

assembler* *n* : a computer program that automatically converts instructions written in a mnemonic code into the equivalent machine code — compare COMPILER *herein*

assembly language *n* : a mnemonic language for programming a computer that is a close approximation of machine language

assist* *n* : a mechanical device that provides assistance

as·tri·on·ics \ˌastrēˈäniks\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* [*astro*nautics + *-ionics* (as in *avionics*)] : electronics applied to astronautics

as·tro·biology \ˌas(ˌ)trō +\ *n* [*astr-* + *biology*] : EXOBIOLOGY *herein* — **as·tro·biologist** \" +\ *n*

as·tro·bleme \ˈastrəˌblēm\ *n* -s [*astr-* + Gk *blēma* throw, missile, wound from a missile, fr. *ballein* to throw — more at DEVIL] : an ancient scar on the earth's crust made by the impact of a meteorite

as·tro·chemistry \ˌastrō +\ *n* [*astr-* + *chemistry*] : the chemistry of the stars and interstellar space

as·tro·dy·nam·ics \ˌas(ˌ)trō +\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* [*astr-* + *dynamics*] : dynamics that deals with objects in outer space — **as·tro·dynamic** \" +\ *adj* — **as·tro·dy·nam·i·cist** \ˌas(ˌ)trō + dīˈnaməsəst *sometimes* də-\ *n*

as·tro·geology \ˌas(ˌ)trō +\ *n* [*astr-* + *geology*] : a branch of geology that deals with celestial bodies — **as·tro·geologic** \ˌastrō +\ *adj* — **as·tro·geologist** \ˌas(ˌ)trō +\ *n*

at·a·rax·ic \ˌadəˈraksik\ *adj* [*ataraxy* + *-ic*] : ATARACTIC

ath·er·o·gen·ic \ˌathərōˈjenik\ *adj* [*athero-* + *-genic*] : tending to produce degenerative changes in blood-vessel walls

at·lan·ti·cism \ətˈlantəˌsizəm\ *n* -s *usu cap* [*Atlantic* + *-ism*] : a policy of military cooperation between European and North American powers — **at·lan·ti·cist** \-ntəsəst\ *n* -s *usu cap*

at·mo·sphe·ri·um \ˌatməˈsfirēəm\ *n* -s [*atmosphere* + *-ium* (as in *planetarium*)] **1** : an optical device for projecting images of meteorological phenomena (as clouds) on the inside of a dome **2** : a room housing an atmospherium

at·om·ar·i·um \ˌadəˈmerēəm, -mar-\ *n* -s [NL, fr. Sw *atom* atom (fr. L *atomus*) + NL *-arium* (as in *planetarium*)] **1** : a small nuclear reactor on permanent display for the public **2** : a room for viewing an atomarium

attitude* *n* : the position or orientation (as of a missile or spacecraft) determined by the relationship between its axes and a reference datum (as the horizon or a particular star)

at·to- \ˌad-(ˌ)ō, -dəˌ\ *comb form* [ISV, fr. Dan or Norw *atten* eighteen (fr. ON *āttjān*) + *-o-* — more at EIGHTEEN] : one quintillionth (10^{-18}) part of

attrition* *n* : a usu. gradual loss of personnel from causes normal or peculiar to a given situation (as death, retirement, and resignation in a labor force or failure and dropout among students) often without filling the vacancies

audible *n* -s [*audible*, adj.] : AUTOMATIC *herein*

au·dio–lingual \ˌodēˌ(ˌ)ō +\ *adj* [*audio-* + *lingual*] : involving a drill routine of listening and speaking in language learning

au·dio·tape \ˈodēōˌtāp\ *n* [*audio-* + *tape*] : a tape recording of sound

au·dio·visuals \ˌodēō+\ *n pl* [*audiovisual*] : instructional materials (as filmstrips accompanied by recordings) that make use of both sight and sound

au pair girl *also* **au pair** *n* : a foreign girl living in England who does domestic work for a family in return for room and board and the opportunity to learn the English language

aus·form \ˈōsˌfȯ(ə)rm\ *vt* [*aus*tenitic + *deform*; fr. the deformation's taking place while the steel is still in the austenitic form] : to subject (steel) to deformation and then to quenching and tempering in order to make stronger, more ductile, and more resistant to fatigue failure

au·teur theory \ōˈtər-, -tœər-\ *n* [part trans. of F *politique des auteurs*, fr. *auteur* author, fr. OF *autor;* fr. the view that directors are the true authors of a film — more at AUTHOR] : a cinematic technique characterized by the movie director's complete control over all aspects of production from the selection of a subject to the final editing of the film

au·to·drome \ˈōdəˌdrōm, -dˌōˌ-\ *n* -s [*auto* + *-drome*] : a driving or racing course for automobiles

au·to·immune \ˌōdˌō +\ *adj* [back-formation fr. *autoimmunization*] : of, relating to, or caused by autoantibodies ⟨~ diseases⟩ — **au·to·immunity** \" +\ *n*

au·to·manipulation \ˌōdˌō +\ *n* [*aut-* + *manipulation*] : physical stimulation of the genital organs by oneself

automatic* *n* : a substitute play called by a football quarterback at the line of scrimmage; *also* : a substitute defensive formation called by a linebacker at the line of scrimmage

au·to·net·ics \ˌōdˌōˈned·iks\ *n pl but usu sing in constr* [*aut-* + *-netics* (as in *cybernetics*)] : a branch of knowledge dealing with automatic guidance or control systems

au·toph·a·gy \ōˈtäfəjē\ *n* [*aut-* + *-phagy*] : digestion of cellular constituents by enzymes of the same cell

au·to·regulation \ˌōdˌō +\ *n* [*aut-* + *regulation*] : the maintenance of relative constancy of a physiological process under varying conditions by factors inherent in an organ or tissue — **au·to·regulative** \" +\ *adj* — **au·to·regulatory** \" +\ *adj*

au·to·stra·da \ˌaůdˌōˈsträdə, ˌōdˌ-\ *n, pl* **autostradas** *or* **autostra·de** \-ˌdā(ˌ)ā\ [It, fr. *auto*mobile automobile (fr. F) + *strada* street, fr. LL *strata* paved road — more at STREET] : a high-speed multilane motor road first developed in Italy

avale·ment \ˌävälˈ(ə)mäⁿ\ *n* -s [F, lit., swallowing, fr. *avaler* to lower, swallow, fr. MF — more at AVALE] : a folding of the legs by a skier as he leans back and shoots his feet forward so as to keep the skis in contact with the snow in skiing and turning at high speed on bumpy terrain

avoid·ant \əˈvȯidᵊnt\ *adj* [*avoid* + *-ant*] : tending to draw away : negatively orienting with respect to a stimulus

aza·ser·ine \ˌazəˈseˌrēn, -siˌ-, -ˌrən\ *n* [*diaz-* + acetyl + *serine*] : an antibiotic that is used to inhibit the growth of some tumors and is an immunosuppressive agent

back·ground·er \ˈbakˌgraůndə(r\ *n* [*background* + *-er*] : an informal off-the-record news conference in which a government official talks freely to reporters

backup* *n* : one that serves as a substitute or alternative ⟨a ~ for a rocket⟩ — **backup** *adj*

bad–mouth \ˈˌbadˌmaůth, -ţh\ *vt* : to criticize severely, persistently, and often unjustifiedly

bag* *n* **1** : frame or state of mind ⟨when a person acts stupidly, he is "in his stupid ~" —Junius Griffin⟩ **2** : something suited to one's taste : something one likes or does well : SPECIALTY ⟨hasn't been my ~ so far, but I'm a very dedicated actor —Dick Van Dyke⟩ **3 a** : an individual's typical way of life ⟨can't expect people who are in another ~ to accept my ~ —Jerry Rubin⟩ **b** : a characteristic manner of expression ⟨more than any other singer in the soul ~ —Albert Goldman⟩ **4** : something that frustrates or impedes : HANG-UP

bag·gies \ˈbagēz, -aag-, -aig-, -giz\ *n pl* [*baggy*] : long loose fitting swim trunks — compare JAMS *herein*

ba·ha·sa in·do·ne·sia \bəˌhäsəˌindəˈnēzhə, -ēshə, -ēzēə, -āsēə\ *n, cap B&I* [Indonesian *bahasa indonésia*, fr. *bahasa* language (fr. Skt *bhāṣā*, fr. *bhāṣate* he speaks) + *indonésia* Indonesian, fr. *Indonesia*, republic in Malay archipelago; akin to Gk *phanai* to say — more at BAN] : INDONESIAN 3b

ba·ker–nunn camera \ˌbākə(r)ˈnən-\ *n, usu cap B&N* [after James G. *Baker* b1914 & Joseph *Nunn*, Amer. optical designers] : a large camera for tracking earth satellites

bal·lute \bəˈlüt, ˈbaˌlüt\ *n* -s [*balloon* + *parachute*] : a small inflatable parachute for stabilization and deceleration of a jumper or object before the conventional parachute opens

baltimore chop *n, usu cap B* [so called fr. its perfection by the Baltimore baseball team of the 1890s] : a batted ball in baseball that usu. bounces too high for an infielder to make a putout at first base

banana seat *n* : an elongated bicycle saddle that often has an upward-curved back and a tapered front

banquet lamp *n* : a tall elaborate kerosine table lamp

ban·tu·stan \ˈban·(ˌ)tüˌstan, ˈbantəˌs-, ˈbän·(ˌ)tüˌstän, ˌ=ˈ=\ *n* -s *usu cap* [*Bantu* + *-stan* land (as in *Hindustan*)] : an all black enclave in the Republic of So. Africa with a limited degree of self-government

barf \ˈbärf\ *vi* -ED/ -ING/ -S [origin unknown] : VOMIT

bar girl *n* : a prostitute who frequents bars

bar·i·at·rics \ˌbarēˈa·triks\ *n pl but sing in constr* [*bar-* + *-iatrics*] : a branch of medicine that deals with the treatment of obesity — **bar·i·a·tri·cian** \-ēəˈtrishən\ *n* -s

bar mitzvah *vt, often cap B&M* : to administer the ceremony of bar mitzvah to

baro·re·cep·tor \ˌbarōrēˈseptə(r), -ōrēˌ-\ *also* **bar·o·cep·tor** \ˈbarōˌs-\ *n* -s [*bar-* + *receptor*] : a neural receptor sensitive to changes in environmental pressure ⟨~s of the arterial walls⟩

bary·on \ˈbarēˌänˌ\ *n* -s [ISV *bary-* + *²-on*] : any of a group of elementary particles (as a nucleon or a heavier particle) that obey Fermi-Dirac statistics and satisfy the principle of conservation of baryon number — **bary·on·ic** \ˌbarēˈänik\ *adj*

baryon number *n* : a number equal to the number of baryons minus that of antibaryons in a system of elementary particles

base* *n* : a price level at which a security previously actively declining in price rests further price decline

base exchange *n* : a post exchange on an air force base

battered child syndrome *n* : the complex of grave physical injuries (as fractures, hematomas, and contusions) that results from gross abuse (as by a parent) of a young child

bayes·ian \ˈbāzēən, -āzhən\ *adj, usu cap* [Thomas *Bayes* †1761 Eng. mathematician + E *-ian*] : being or relating to a theory (as of decision or of statistical inference) in which probabilities are associated with individual events or statements and not merely with sequences of events (as in frequency theories)

beach bunny *n* : a girl who joins a surfing group but does not engage in surfing

beachwear \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* : clothing for wear at a beach

beautiful people *n, often cap B&P* : people that are identified with the smart set ⟨you can make it if you're one of the *beautiful people* . . . or if you just have money —*Newsweek*⟩

behavioral scientist *n* : a specialist in behavioral science

bellyboard \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* [*belly* + *board;* fr. the prone position of the rider] : a small buoyant board usu. less than three feet in length that is used in surf riding

belted–bias tire *n* : a pneumatic tire with a hooplike belt of cord around the tire underneath the tread and on top of the ply cords laid at an acute angle to the center line of the tread

bem·e·gride \ˈbemə,grīd, -ēm-\ *n* -s [*beta* + *ethyl* + *methyl* + *glutaric acid* + *imide*] : an analeptic drug used esp. to counteract the effect of barbiturates

ben·ning·ton \ˈbeniŋ(k)tən\ *or* **bennington ware** *also* **bennington pottery** *n* -s *usu cap B* : ceramic ware including earthenware, stoneware, and Parian ware produced at Bennington, Vt.; *esp* : earthenware with brown or mottled glaze

Bering time *n* [*Bering* (*sea*)] : the time of the 11th time zone west of Greenwich that includes western Alaska and the Aleutian islands

best–efforts \ˌ=ˈ=\ *adj, of security underwriting* : not involving a firm commitment on the part of an underwriter to take up any unsold shares or bonds of an issue being underwritten

beta–adrenergic \ˌ=ˌ=ˌ=ˈ=\ *adj* : of, relating to, or being a beta-receptor ⟨*beta-adrenergic* blocking action⟩

beta decay *n* **1** : a radioactive transformation of an atomic nucleus in which the atomic number is increased or decreased by 1 by the simultaneous emission of a beta particle and a neutrino or antineutrino without change in the mass number **2** : the decay of an unstable elementary particle in which an electron or positron is emitted

beta–oxidation \ˈ=ˌ=ˌ=ˈ=\ *n* [*beta* + *oxidation*] : stepwise catabolism of fatty acids in which two-carbon fragments are successively removed from the carboxyl end of the chain

beta particle* *n* : a high-speed electron or positron

beta–receptor \ˈ=ˌ=ˌ=\ *n* : a receptor that responds strongly to or is activated by epinephrine and isoproterenol but is relatively unresponsive to levarterenol and that is associated with positive cardiac chronotropic and inotropic effects, vasodilation, and inhibition of smooth muscle in the bronchi, myometrium, and intestine — compare ALPHA-RECEPTOR *herein*

bi·a·fran \bēˈafrən, bī-, -ăfˈ-, -āfˈ-\ *n* -s *cap* [*Biafra*, name assumed by seceding region of Nigeria (1967–1970) + E *-an*] : a native or inhabitant of the onetime secessionist Republic of Biafra — **biafran** *adj, usu cap*

bi·aly \bēˈalē\ *n* -s [Yiddish, short for *bialystoker*, fr. *bialystoker* of Bialystok, fr. *Białystok*, city in northeast Poland] : a flat breakfast roll that has a depressed center and is usu. covered with onion flakes

bias–belted tire *n* : BELTED-BIAS TIRE *herein*

bi·ath·lon \bīˈathlən, -ˌlän\ *n* -s [ISV *¹bi-* + *-athlon* (as in *pentathlon*)] : a composite athletic contest consisting of cross-country skiing and rifle sharpshooting

bi·dialectal \ˌbī +\ *adj* [*bi-* + *dialectal*] : using two dialects of the same language

bi·dialectalism \" +\ *n* : the constant oral use of two dialects of the same language

bi·don·ville \ˌbēˌdōⁿˈvē(ə)l\ *n* [F, fr. *bidon* tin can (fr. MF, canteen, fr. OF, prob. fr. —assumed— ON *bidha* milk jug — whence Icel *bidha*) + *ville* city, fr. OF, village — more at FISCAL, VILLAGE] : a settlement of jerry-built dwellings on the outskirts of a city (as in France)

big bang theory *n* : a theory in astronomy: the universe originated billions of years ago from the explosion of a single mass of material so that the pieces are still flying apart — compare STEADY STATE THEORY *herein*

big beat *n, often cap both Bs* : ROCK 'N' ROLL

big·it \ˈbijət\ *n* -s [*binary digit*] : BINARY DIGIT

bi–level \ˈbī +\ *n* : a two-story house with the first floor beginning below ground level and divided into two areas by a ground-level entry situated between the stories of the adjoining areas

binary* *adj* **1** : involving a choice between or condition of two alternatives only (as on-off, yes-no) **2** : involving binary notation

binary notation *n* : expression of a number with a base of 2 using only the digits 0 and 1 with each digital place representing a power of 2 instead of a power of 10 as in decimal notation

bio- \ˈbīō\ *comb form* [*biological*] : being such biologically ⟨the *biomother* gave up her baby for adoption⟩

bio·activity \ˌbīō +\ *n* [*bi-* + *activity*] : the effect (as of an insecticide) on a living organism

bio·astronautics \" +\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* [*bi-* + *astronautics*] : the medical and biological aspect of astronautics — **bio·astro·nautical** \" +\ *adj*

bio·au·tog·ra·phy \ˌbīōôˈtägrəfē\ *n* [*bi-* + *autograph* + *-y*] : the identification or comparison of organic compounds separated by chromatography by means of their effect on living organisms and esp. microorganisms — **bio·au·to·graph** \-ˈōdəˌgraf\ *n* — **bio·au·to·graph·ic** \ˌbīōˌōdəˈgrafik\ *adj*

bi·o·ci·dal \ˌbīəˈsīdᵊl\ *adj* [*bi-* + *-cidal*] : destructive to life

bio·clean \ˈbīō +ˌ-\ *adj* [*bi-* + *clean*] : free or almost free of harmful or potentially harmful organisms (as bacteria)

bio·de·grad·able \ˌbīōdəˈgrādəbəl, -ōdēˈ-\ *adj* [*bi-* + *degradable* (herein)] : capable of being broken down esp. into innocuous products by the action of living beings (as microorganisms) — **bio·de·grad·abil·i·ty** \ˌ=ˌ=ˌbilədēˈē\ *n* -ES — **bio·degradation** \ˌbīō +\ *n* — **bio·degrade** \" +\ *vb*

bio·elec·tro·gen·e·sis \ˌbīōəˌlektrəˈjenəsəs, -ōēˌl-\ *n* [NL, fr. *²bi-* + *electr-* + *genesis*] : the production of electricity by living organisms

bio·electronics \ˌbīō +\ *n pl but sing in constr* [*²bi-* + *electronics*] **1** : a branch of the life sciences that deals with electronic control of physiological function esp. as applied in medicine to compensate for defects of the nervous system **2** : a branch of science that deals with the role of electron transfer in biological processes

bioengineering* *n* : the application of engineering principles and technology to the solution of biological and medical problems — **bioengineer** *n*

bio·environmental \ˌbīō +\ *adj* [*²bi-* + *environmental*] : concerned with the environment and esp. with deleterious factors in the environment of living beings

bio·geo·ce·nose \ˌbīō,jēōsəˈnōz, -nōs\ *n* [Russ *biogeotsenoz*, fr. NL *bi-* *²bi-* + *ge-* + *-coenosis* (as in *biocoenosis*)] : BIOGEOCOENOSIS *herein*

bio·geo·coe·no·sis *or* **bio·geo·ce·no·sis** \-ˌjēōsəˈnōsəs\ *n, pl* **biogeocoeno·ses** *or* **biogeoceno·ses** \-ōˌsēz\ [NL, fr. *²bi-* + *ge-* + *-coenosis* (as in *biocoenosis*)] : ECOSYSTEM — **bio·geo·coe·not·ic** \-nätˈik\ *adj*

bio·hazard \ˈbīō +\ *n* [*²bi-* + *hazard*] : biological material that constitutes a hazard to man or his environment — used esp. of infective material

bio·instrumentation \" +\ *n* [*²bi-* + *instrumentation*] : the development and use of instruments for recording and transmitting physiological data (as from astronauts in flight)

biological clock *n* : an inherent timing mechanism responsible for various automatic rhythmic responses of living beings

bio·material \ˌbīō +\ *n* [*²bi-* + *material*] : material used for or suitable for use in prostheses that come in direct contact with living tissues

bio·medical \" +\ *adj* [*²bi-* + *medical*] **1** : of or relating to biomedicine ⟨~ studies⟩ **2** : of, relating to, or involving biological, medical, and physical science ⟨~ engineering⟩

bio·medicine \" +\ *n* [*²bi-* + *medicine*] : a branch of medical science concerned esp. with the survival and function of human beings in abnormal environments

bi·on·ics \bīˈäniks\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* [*²bi-* + *-onics* (as in *electronics*)] : a branch of science concerned with the application of data about the functioning of biological systems to the solution of engineering problems — **bi·on·ic** \-nik\ *adj*

bio·organic \ˌbīō +\ *adj* [*²bi-* + *organic*] : of or relating to the organic chemistry of biologically significant substances

bio·polymer \" +\ *n* [*²bi-* + *polymer*] : a polymer (as a protein) formed in a biological system

bio·rhythm \" +\ *n* [*²bi-* + *rhythm*] : an inherent rhythm that appears to control or initiate various biological processes — **bio·rhythmic** \" +\ *adj*

bio·satellite \" +\ *n* [*²bi-* + *satellite*] : an artificial satellite for experimental study of the effects of space on living beings

bio·science \ˌbīō +\ *n* [*²bi-* + *science*] : BIOLOGY 1a — **bio·scientific** \" +\ *adj* — **bio·scientist** \" +\ *n*

bio·sensor \" +\ *n* [*²bi-* + *sensor*] : a device sensitive to a physical stimulus (as heat or a particular motion) and transmitting information about a life process (as of an astronaut)

bio·speleology \" +\ *n* [*²bi-* + *speleology*] : the biological study of cave-dwelling organisms — **bio·speleologist** *n*

bio·telemetry \" +\ *n* [*²bi-* + *telemetry*] : the remote detection and measurement of a condition, activity, or function relating to a man or animal — **bio·telemetric** \" +\ *adj*

bio·transformation \" +\ *n* [*²bi-* + *transformation*] : the transformation of a chemical compound into another compound in a living system

bio·tron \ˈbīəˌträn\ *n* -s [*²bi-* + *-tron* (as in *cyclotron*)] : a climate control chamber used to study the effect of specific environmental factors on living organisms

bi·quinary \(ˈ)bī +\ *adj* [*¹bi-* + *quinary*] : of, being, or relating to a mixed-base system of numbers in which one digit of each pair is to the base 5 and the other digit to the base 2

birch·er \ˈbərchər, ˈbəchə(r, ˈbəichə(r\ *n* -s *usu cap* [the John *Birch* Society, conservative political organization + E *-er*] : a member or adherent of the John Birch Society — **birch·ism** \-ˌchizəm\ *n* -s *usu cap* — **birch·ist** \-ˌchəst\ *or* **birch·ite** \-ˌchīt, usu -ĭd- + V\ *n* -s *usu cap*

bird* *n* **1** : AIRPLANE **2** : ROCKET **3** : SATELLITE **4** : SPACECRAFT

birdy-back *also* **bird·ie·back** \ˈbərdēˌbak, -ē-, -əi-, -di-\ *n* [*¹bird* + *-yback* (as in *piggyback*)] : the movement of loaded truck trailers by airplane

bi·stable \(ˈ)bī +\ *adj* [*¹bi-* + *stable*, adj.] : having two stable states ⟨a ~ electrical element⟩ — **bi·stability** \ˌbī +\ *n*

bit* *n* **1 a** : a characteristic pattern of behavior ⟨book burning, unless it's an embassy library, is strictly a Fascist ~ —Gene Williams⟩ **b** : a standardized procedure ⟨the familiar "testing: 1 . . . 2 . . . 3 . . . 4 . . ." ~ to check sound level and room acoustics —David Curl⟩ **2 a** : a particular appearance or style ⟨sick of the bouffant ~ —H.B.Jacobs⟩ **b** : the aggregate of items, situations, or activities appropriate to a given style, genre, or role

bit* *n* : the physical representation (as in a computer tape or memory) of a bit by an electrical pulse, a magnetized spot, or a hole whose presence or absence indicates data

bi·zen ware \bēˈzen-\ *n, usu cap B* [part trans. of Jap *bizen-yaki*, fr. *Bizen*, former province in Japan, where it was made + Jap *yaki* pottery] : a Japanese ceramic ware produced since the 14th century that is typically a dark bronzy stoneware often with smears of natural ash glaze

black belt \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* [so called fr. the color of the belt of the uniform worn by the holder of the rating] **1** : a rating of expert in various arts of self-defense (as judo and karate) **2** : one who holds a black belt — **black belt** *adj*

black box *n* **1** : a usu. complicated electronic device (as a radar set) that can be inserted in or removed as a unit from a particular place in an assembly (as a spacecraft) **2** : a usu. electronic device (as a control for a computer) which operates on an input to produce an output but whose internal mechanism is hidden from or mysterious to the user

black comedy *n* : comedy that employs black humor

black humor *n* : humor marked by the use of usu. morbid, ironic, grotesquely comic episodes that ridicule human folly — **black humorist** *n*

blacklight trap \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* : a trap for insects that uses a form of black light perceptible to particular insects as an attractant

black lung *n* : a disease of the lungs caused by habitual inhalation (as by miners) of coal dust : ANTHRACOSILICOSIS

black muslim *n, usu cap B&M* [so called fr. the adoption by members of the group of Muslim religious practices] : a member of a black group that professes Islamic religious belief and advocates a strictly separate black community

black nationalist *n, often cap B&N* : one of a group of militant blacks who advocate separatism from the whites and the formation of self-governing black communities — **black nationalism** *n, often cap B&N*

blackness* *n* **1** : the aggregate of qualities characteristic of the Negro race **2** : NEGRITUDE

black panther *n, usu cap B&P* : a member of an organization of militant American Negroes

black power *n* : the mobilization of the political and economic power of American Negroes esp. to further racial equality

black studies *n pl* : studies (as history and literature) relating to American Negro culture

blast* *n* **1** : an enjoyably exciting occasion or event; *esp* : PARTY **2** : HOME RUN

blast *n* [*-blast*] : an immature or imperfectly developed cell — **blastic** *also* **blast** *adj*

bleep \ˈblēp\ *n* -s [imit.] : a short high-pitched sound (as from electronic equipment)

blip* *vt* : to remove (recorded sound) from a videotape so that in the received television program there is an interruption in the sound ⟨swearwords *blipped* by a censor⟩

blitz* *n* : a defensive rush on a passer in football

blitz* *vb* ~ *vt* **1** : to rush (a passer) in football **2** : to cause (as a linebacker) to blitz ~ *vi* : to make a rush on a passer in football — **blitz·er** *n* -s

block·bust·ing \'bläk,bəstiŋ\ *n* -s [*¹block* (space in a city) + *-busting*, gerund of *²bust*] : profiteering by inducing white property owners to sell hastily and often at a loss by appeals to fears of depressed values because of threatened minority encroachment and then reselling at inflated prices — **block·bust·er** *n*

blow* *vt* : SMOKE ⟨a few had started *~ing* grass in their early teens —Daniel Greene⟩ — **blow one's cool** : to lose one's composure — **blow one's mind** **1** : to affect one with intense emotional excitement **2** : to take one by surprise : SHOCK **3** : to undergo a psychedelic experience

bluegrass \'ˌēˌ\ *n* [fr. *Bluegrass State*, nickname of Kentucky, an important source of hillbilly music] : country music played at a rapid tempo on unamplified stringed instruments (as banjos and fiddles)

blue stellar object *n* : any of various blue celestial bodies that do not emit appreciable radio waves

board* *n* **boards** *pl* : the low wooden wall enclosing a hockey rink

boa·tel \bō'tel\ *n* -s [blend of *boat* and *hotel*] : a waterside hotel equipped with docks to accommodate persons traveling by boat

bocage* *n* : a supporting and ornamental background (as of shrubbery and flowers) for a ceramic figure

body shirt *n* : a close-fitting high-collared shirt or blouse with curved front and back seams and deep cuffs

body stocking *n* : a sheer close-fitting one-piece garment for the torso that may have sleeves and legs

bodysurf \'ˌēˌˌ\ *vi* [*¹body* + *²surf*] : to ride on a wave without a surfboard by planing on the chest and stomach — **body·surf·er** \'ˌēˌˌēˌ\ *n*

bof·fo \'bäf(ˌ)ō\ *adj* [*boffo*, *n.*, short for *boffola*] : extraordinarily successful : SENSATIONAL

boilerplate \'ˌēˌˌ\ *n* [*boiler plate*] : a model of a spacecraft whose structure is heavier than the flight version

bok·mål \'bůkˌmól, 'bōk-\ *n* -s [Norw, fr. *bok* book (fr. ON *bōk*) + *mál* language, fr. ON *mál* — more at BOOK, MAIL] : RIKSMÅL

bomb* *n* **1** : an inept or unfavorably received performance : FLOP **2** : a long pass in football

bomb* *vb* ~ *vi* : to fall flat; *esp* : to put on an unsuccessful or unfavorably received performance — often used with *out*

bomb·let \'bämlət\ *n* -s [*¹bomb* + *-let*] : a small bomb

bonded* *adj* : composed of two or more layers of the same or different fabrics held together by an adhesive : ⟨~ jersey⟩

bon·kers \'bäŋkə(r)z\ *adj* [origin unknown] *chiefly Brit* : CRAZY, MAD ⟨if I don't work, I go ~ —Zoe Caldwell⟩

boo \'bü\ *n* [origin unknown] : MARIJUANA

bootstrap* *n* : a computer routine consisting of a few initial instructions by means of which the rest of the instructions are brought into the computer

borough* *n* : a civil division of the state of Alaska corresponding to a county in other states

bos·sa no·va \ˌbôsəˈnōvə, ˌbäs-\ *n* [Pg, lit., new trend, fr. *bossa* hump, bump, trend (fr. F *bosse* hump, fr. OF *boce*) + *nova*, fem. of *novo* new, fr. L *novus* — more at BOSS, NEW] **1** : a Brazilian dance characterized by the sprightly step pattern of the samba and a subtle bounce **2** : music resembling the samba with jazz interpolations

boston arm *n, usu cap B* [so called fr. its development by four institutions in Boston, Mass.] : an artificial arm that is activated by an amputee's nerve impulses which are electrically amplified and transmitted to a motor operating the arm

bottle-feed \'ˌēˌˌ\ *vt* : to feed (as an infant) with a bottle

bottom out *vi, of a security market* : to decline to a point where demand begins to exceed supply and a rise in prices is imminent

bou·zou·ki *also* **bou·sou·ki** \bůˈzůkē\ *n, pl* **bouzoukia** *also* **bouzoukis** [NGk *mpouzouki*] : a long-necked stringed musical instrument of Greek origin

brace* *n* **brac·es** *pl* : wire fastened to teeth to correct irregularities in the position

bra·dy·ki·nin \ˌbrādəˈkīnən\ *n* [*brady-* + *kinin* (herein)] : a kinin that is formed in injured tissue, acts in vasodilation of small arterioles, is held to play a part in inflammatory processes, and is composed of a chain of nine amino acids

brain* *n* : an automatic device (as a computer) that performs one or more of the functions of the human brain for control, guidance, or computation ⟨the ~ of a missile⟩

brain drain *n* : the migration of professional people (as scientists, professors, or physicians) from one country to another usu. for higher salaries or better living conditions

breadboard \'ˌēˌˌ\ *vt* : to make an experimental arrangement of (an electronic circuit) on a flat surface

brecht·ian \'brektēən, -k-\ *adj, usu cap* [Bertolt *Brecht* †1956 Ger. dramatist + E *-ian*] : of, relating to, or suggestive of Bertolt Brecht or his writings

bride's basket \'ˌēˌˌ\ *n* : an ornate, handled, usu. colored, and often cased glass bowl fitted with a silver-plated base

broadband \'ˌēˌˌ\ *adj* : of, having, or involving operation with uniform efficiency over a wide band of frequencies

bro·me·la·in \ˌbrōməˈlāən, brōˈmēlēən\ *n* -s [alter. (influenced by *papain*) of *bromelin*] : BROMELIN

brown bag·ging \'braůnˈbagiŋ, -aag-, -aig-, -gēŋ\ *n* [*brown bag* + *-ing*; fr. the brown paper bag used] **1** : the practice of carrying a bottle of liquor into a restaurant or club where setups are available but where the sale of liquor by the drink is illegal **2** : the practice of carrying (as to work) one's lunch usu. in a brown paper bag — **brown bag·ger** \-gə(r\ *n*

brown recluse spider *n* [*recluse* prob. fr. NL *reclusa*, specific epithet, fr. LL, fem. of *reclusus* shut up; fr. its living chiefly in dark corners — more at RECLUSE] : a venomous spider (*Loxosceles reclusa*) introduced into the southern U. S. that has a violin-shaped mark on the cephalothorax and produces a dangerous neurotoxin

brownware \'ˌēˌˌ\ *n* [*brown* + *ware*] **1** : a brown-glazed earthenware formerly widely used for utility pottery **2** : typically primitive pottery that fires to a brown or reddish color

bru·tal·ism \'brůdᵊlˌizəm, -ütᵊl-\ *n* -s [*brutal* + *-ism*] : a style in art and esp. architecture using exaggeration and distortion to create its effect (as of massiveness or power) — **brutalist** *adj or n*

bubble* *n* : something (as a plastic structure) that is more or less semicylindrical or dome-shaped

bubble car *n* : an automobile having a transparent bubble top

bum·mer \'bəmə(r\ *n* -s [*⁸bum* + *²-er*] : an unpleasant drug-induced hallucinatory experience; *broadly* : an unpleasant event or situation

bunny* *n* [so called fr. the rabbit's ears and tail originally forming part of their costume] : a young, attractive, scantily attired waitress ⟨nightclub *bunnies*⟩

bun·ra·ku \'bůnˈrä(ˌ)kü, 'bůn(ˌ)r-\ *n, usu cap* [Jap] : Japanese puppet theater featuring large costumed wooden puppets, onstage puppeteers, and a chanter who speaks all the lines

burnout* *n* **1 a** : the process or an instance of burning out **b** : the cessation of operation of a jet engine as the result of exhaustion of or shutting off of fuel **2** : the point in the trajectory of a rocket engine at which burnout occurs

bush hat *n* [*¹bush* (backcountry)] : a broad-brimmed hat worn esp. as part of an Australian military uniform

bust* *vt* **1** : ARREST **2** : RAID

bust* *n* : a police raid

butch* *n* [*butch*, adj. (herein)] : a butch lesbian

butch *adj* [prob. fr. *Butch*, a nickname for boys, esp. tough boys] **1** *of a lesbian* : playing the male role in a homosexual relationship **2** *of a male homosexual* : very masculine in appearance

butter pat* *n* : BUTTER CHIP

buy-in \'bīˌin\ *n* [*buy in*, v.] : the act or process of buying in to cover a short on a stock or commodity exchange

BX \(')bēˈeks\ *abbr or n* -s base exchange *herein*

byte \'bīt\ *n* -s [perh. alter. of *²bite* (morsel)] : a group of adjacent binary digits often shorter than a word that a computer processes as a unit ⟨an 8-bit ~⟩

byzantine* *adj, usu cap* : of, relating to, or characterized by a devious manner of operation ⟨the government, with its own *Byzantine* sources of intelligence —Wesley Pruden⟩

BZ \(')bēˈzē\ *n* [*BZ*, army code name] : a gas that when breathed produces incapacitating physical and mental effects

cabana set *n* : a two-piece beachwear ensemble for men consisting of loosely fitting shorts and a short-sleeved jacket

cable TV *n* : COMMUNITY ANTENNA TELEVISION *herein*

caer·phil·ly \kärˈfilē\ *n, usu cap* [fr. *Caerphilly*, urban district in Wales] : a mild white whole-milk Welsh cheese

cae·sar salad \ˌsezə(r)-\ *n, usu cap C* [fr. *Caesar's*, restaurant in Tijuana, Mexico, where it originated] : a tossed salad made typically with romaine, garlic, anchovies, and croutons and served with a dressing of olive oil, coddled egg, lemon juice, and grated cheese

cage* *n* : a sheer one-piece dress that has no waistline, is often gathered at the neck, and is worn over a close-fitting underdress or slip

cal·cia \'kalsēə, -lshə\ *n* -s [NL, fr. *calcium* + *-a*] : CALCIUM OXIDE

cal·ci·phy·lax·is \ˌkalsəfəˈlaksəs\ *n, pl* **calciphylax·es** \-akˌsēz\ [NL, fr. *calc-* + *-phylaxis* (as in *prophylaxis*)] : an adaptive response that follows systemic sensitization by a calcifying factor (as a D-vitamin) and a challenge (as with a metallic salt) and involves local inflammation and sclerosis with calcium deposition — **cal·ci·phy·lac·tic** \ˌ²ˌˌlaktik\ *adj* — **cal·ci·phy·lac·ti·cal·ly** \-tikˈlē\ *adv*

cal·ci·to·nin \ˌkalsəˈtōnən\ *n* -s [*calci-* + *¹tonic* + *-in*] : THYROCALCITONIN *herein*

callback** *n* : a recall by a manufacturer of a recently sold product (as an automobile) for correction of a defect

cal·li·graph \'kaləˌgraf\ *vt* -ED/-ING/-S [back-formation fr. *calligraphy*] : to produce or reproduce in a calligraphic style

cameo* *n* : a small theatrical role performed by a well-known actor or actress and often limited to a single scene

¹camp \'kamp, -aa(ə)-, -aiˌ\ *n* [origin unknown] **1** : exaggerated effeminate mannerisms (as of speech or gesture) exhibited esp. by homosexuals **2** : one that is so outrageously artificial, affected, inappropriate, or out-of-date as to be considered amusing — **camp·i·ness** *n* -ES — **campy** *adj* -ER/-EST

²camp *adj* : HOMOSEXUAL

³camp *vi* : to engage in camp : exhibit the qualities of camp ⟨he . . . was *~ing*, hands on hips, with a quick eye to notice every man who passed by —Robert McAlmon⟩

camper* *n* : a portable dwelling (as a structure to fit in a pickup truck, a collapsible structure folded into a small trailer, or a specially equipped automotive vehicle) for use during casual travel and camping

camphor glass *n* : glass with a cloudy white appearance resembling gum camphor in lump form

C and W *abbr* country and western

can·dy strip·er \-ˌstrīpə(r\ *n* [*candy stripe* + *-er;* fr. the red and white stripes of her uniform] : a teen-age volunteer nurse's aide

can of worms : PANDORA'S BOX

canton china *n, usu cap 1st C* : porcelain Canton ware esp. when blue-and-white

canton enamel *n, usu cap C* [fr. *Canton*, China] : Chinese enamelware of Limoges type

capital gains distribution *n* : the part of the payout of an investment company to its shareholders that consists of realized profits from the sale of securities and technically is not income

capital structure *n* : the makeup of the capitalization of a business in terms of the amounts and kinds of equity and debt securities : the equity and debt securities of a business together with its surplus and reserves

capri pants *n pl, often cap C* [fr. *Capri*, island in the Bay of Naples, Italy] : close-fitting pants that have tapered legs with a slit on the outside of the leg bottom, extend almost to the ankle, and are used for informal wear esp. by women

cap·sid \'kapsəd\ *n* -s [L *capsa* case + E *-id* — more at CASE] : the outer protein shell of a virus particle

cap·so·mere \'kapsəˌmi(ə)r\ *n* -s [*capsid* (herein) + *-o-* + *-mere*] : one of the discrete elements making up a capsid

car·a·van·ner \'karəˌ(ˌ)vaˈni(ə)r, -ˌvəˈ-, -niə(r\ *n* -s [*caravan* + *-eer*] : CARAVANNER *herein*

car·a·van·ner \'karəˌvanə(r, -vaan- *also* 'ker- *esp Brit* ˌēˌˌ\ *n* -s [*caravan* + *-er*] **1** *or* **car·a·van·er** : one that travels in a caravan — called also *caravaneer* **2** *Brit* : one that goes camping with a trailer

car·ba·ryl \'kärbəˌril, -ˌrəl\ *n* [*carb*amate + *aryl*] : a carbamate insecticide effective against numerous crop, forage, and forest pests

carbon dating *n* : determination of age (as of an archaeological find) by means of the content of carbon 14

carbon spot* *n* : a small black spot on a coin

car coat *n* : a three-quarter-length overcoat

card–car·ry·ing \ˌēˌˌ\ *adj* [so called fr. the assumption that such a member carries a membership card] **1** : being a full-fledged member of a Communist party **2** : being strongly identified with a group (as of people in a common profession)

car·di·nal·i·ty \ˌkärdᵊnˈaləd·ēˌ\ *n* -ES [*²cardinal* + *-ity*] : the number of elements in a given mathematical set

cardinal number* *n* : the property that a mathematical set has in common with all sets that can be put into one-to-one correspondence with it

cardinal's hat *n* : GALERO *herein*

car·dio·accelerator *or* **car·dio·acceleratory** \ˌkärdēˌ(ˌ)ō +\ *adj* [*cardi-* + *accelerator* or *acceleratory*] : speeding up the action of the heart — **car·dio·acceleration** \"+\ *n*

car·dio·meg·a·ly \ˌkärdēōˈmegəlē\ *n* -ES [*cardi-* + *-megaly*] : enlargement of the heart

car·dio·myopathy \ˌkärdēō+\ *n* [*cardi-* + *myopathy*] : a typically chronic disorder of heart muscle that may involve hypertrophy and obstructive damage to the heart

carhop *vi* : to work as a carhop

ca·ri·so·pro·dol \kəˌrīsəˈprōˌdōl, -īzə-, -dōl\ *n* -s [*car-* (prob. fr. *carbamate*) + *isopropyl* + *diol*] : a drug related to meprobamate that is used to relax muscle and relieve pain

carnival glass *n, often cap C* [so called fr. its frequent use for prizes at carnival booths] : pressed glass with an iridescent finish mass-produced in a variety of colors (as frosty white or deep purple) in the U. S. in the early 20th century

carryon \'ˌēˌˌ\ *n* -s [*¹carry* + *²on*] : a piece of luggage suitable for being carried aboard an airplane by a passenger

casebook* *n* : a compilation of primary and secondary documents relating to a central topic together with scholarly comment, exercises, and study aids that is often designed to serve as a source book for short papers (as in a course in composition) or as a point of departure for a research paper

ca·sette \kəˈset, ka-\ *n* -S [by alter.] : CASSETTE 3

cash flow *n* : a measure of corporate worth that consists of net income after taxes plus bookkeeping deductions involving no cash outlay and that is usu. figured in dollars per share of common stock outstanding

cassette* *n* : a usu. plastic case containing two small reels for insertion into a tape recorder with the tape on one reel passing to the other without having to be threaded

cas·tro·ism \'kas(ˌ)trōˌizəm *sometimes* -üs-\ *n* -S *usu cap* [Fidel *Castro b*1927 Cuban political leader] : the political, economic, and social principles and policies of Fidel Castro — **cas·tro·ite** \-ōˌīt\ *n* -S *usu cap*

CAT \ˌsēˌāˈtē\ *abbr* clear-air turbulence *herein*

cat·e·chol·amine \ˌkadəˈkhōləˌmēn, -əˈsh-, -əˈk-, -ōl-, -ˌmən\ *n* [*catechol* + *amine*] : any of various substances that are related to catechols but have one or more amine side groups and include physiologically active compounds (as adrenaline)

CATV \ˌsēˌāˌtēˈvē\ *abbr* community antenna television *herein*

CBW *abbr* chemical and biological warfare

CCTV *abbr, often not cap* closed-circuit television

ce·di \'sādē\ *n* -S [Akan *sedie* cowrie] **1** : the basic monetary unit of Ghana — see MONEY table *in the Dict* **2** : a note representing one cedi

center–of–mass system* *n* : a frame of reference in which the center of mass is at rest

cen·ti·second \'sentə +ˌ\ *n* [ISV *centi-* + *second*] : one hundredth of a second

central tendon *n* : a 3-lobed aponeurosis located near the central portion of the diaphragm caudal to the pericardium and composed of intersecting planes of collagenous fibers

cereal leaf beetle *n* : a small reddish brown black-headed Old World chrysomelid beetle (*Oulema melanopa*) that feeds on cereal grasses and is a serious threat to U. S. grain crops

ce·ru·lo·plas·min \səˈrülōˈplazmən, ˈser(y)əl-\ *n* [ISV *cerulo-* (fr. L *caeruleus* dark blue) + *plasma* + *-in*; prob. orig. formed in Sw] : a plasma oxidase that is an alpha globulin active in copper storage and transport

cesium clock *n* : an atomic clock regulated by the natural vibration frequency of a beam of cesium atoms

cesium 137 \-ˌwənˌthərd·ēˈsevən, -vᵊm, -bᵊmˌ\ *n* : a radioactive isotope of cesium that has the mass number 137 and a half-life of about 12 months and is present in fallout

chamberlain* *n* : an often honorary papal attendant; *specif* : a priest having a rank of honor below domestic prelate

chan·dler's wobble \ˌchandlə(r)z-, -aan-, -ən-, *rap.* -nl-\ *n, usu cap C* [after Seth Carlo *Chandler* †1913 Am. astronomer] : an elliptical oscillation of the earth's axis of rotation with a period of 14 months whose cause has not been determined

channel* *n* : a path along which information passes or an area (as of magnetic tape) on which it is stored

character* *n* : a symbol (as a letter or number) that represents information; *also* : a representation (as by a series of ones and zeros) of such a character that may be accepted by a computer

checkout** *n* **1** : the process of examining and testing something as to readiness for intended use ⟨the ~ of a spacecraft⟩ **2** : the process of familiarizing oneself with the operation of a mechanical thing (as an airplane)

che·la·tor *also* **che·lat·er** \'kēˌlād·ə(r)\ *n* -S : a binding agent that suppresses chemical activity by forming chelates

chemo·nuclear \ˌkemōˌ -ēmō +\ *adj* [*chem-* + *nuclear*] : being or relating to a chemical reaction induced by nuclear radiation or fission fragments

chemo·sphere \'kemaˌsfi(ə)r, -ēm-\ *n* [*chem-* + *sphere*] : a stratum of the upper atmosphere in which photochemical reactions are prevalent and which begins about 20 miles up

chemo·sterilant \ˌkemōˌ -ēm- +\ *n* [*chem-* + *sterilant*] : a substance that produces irreversible sterility (as of an insect) without evidently altering mating habits or life expectancy — see APHOLATE *herein* — **chemo·sterilization** \"+\ *n* — **chemo·sterilize** \"+\ *vb*

chemo·surgery \"+\ [*chem-* + *surgery*] : chemical removal of unwanted tissue — **chemo·surgical** \"+\ *adj*

chemo·taxonomy \" +\ *n* [*chem-* + *taxonomy*] : the classification of plants and animals based on similarities and differences in biochemical composition — **chemo·taxonomic** \" +\ *adj* — **chemo·taxonomically** \" +\ *adv*

cheong·sam \'cheůŋˈsäm\ *n* -S [Chin (Cant) *cheung sam*, lit., long gown] : a dress with a slit skirt and a mandarin collar worn esp. by Oriental women

chiao \'jaů\ *n, pl* **chiao** [Chin (Pek) *chiao³*] **1** : a monetary unit of China equal to ¹/₁₀ yuan — see MONEY table *in the Dict* **2** : a coin or note representing one chiao

chi·ca·no \chi'kän·(ˌ)ō, shi-\ *n* -S *usu cap* [modif. of Sp *mejicano* Mexican, fr. *Méjico* Mexico] : an American of Mexican descent — **chicano** *adj, usu cap*

chien ware \chēˈen,-\ *also* **chien yao** \-nˈyaů\ *n, usu cap C* [Chin (Pek) *ch'ien yao²*, fr. *Ch'ien-an*, locality in China where it was first made + Chin (Pek) *yao²* pottery] : a dark Chinese stoneware dating from the Sung period, usu. having a black brown-mottled glaze, and usu. used for tea wares

chill factor *n* : WINDCHILL *herein*

chil·tern hundreds \ˌchiltə(r)n-\ *n pl, cap C&H* [fr. *Chiltern Hundreds*, three hundreds in the Chiltern hills of England appointment to the stewardship of which is a disqualification for membership in Parliament] : a nominal appointment granted by the British crown that serves as a legal fiction to enable a member of Parliament to relinquish his seat

chip* *n* : INTEGRATED CIRCUIT *herein*

chlor·am·bu·cil \klōrˈambyəˌsil, klór-\ *n* -S [*chloro*ethyl + *amin-* + *butyric* + *-cil* (of unknown origin)] : a nitrogen mustard derivative used esp. to treat leukemias and Hodgkin's disease

chlor·mer·o·drin \-rˈmerədrən\ *n* -S [*chlor-* + *mercury* + *-o-* + *-hydrin*] : a mercurial diuretic compound

chlor·pro·pa·mide \-rˈprōpəˌmīd, -ˌməd\ *n* [*chlor-* + *propane* + *amide*] : a sulfonyl urea compound used to reduce blood sugar in the treatment of mild diabetes

cho·le·sta·sis \ˌkōləˈstāsəs, ˌkäl-\ *n, pl* **cholesta·ses** \-āˌsēz\ [NL, fr. *chol-* + *-stasis*] : a checking or failure of bile flow — **cho·le·stat·ic** \ˌkōləˈstad·ik, ˌkäl-\ *adj*

cho·li·no·lyt·ic \ˌkōlənōˈlid·ik, ˌkäl-\ *adj* [ISV acetyl*choline* + *-o-* + *-lytic*] : interfering with the action of acetylcholine or cholinergic agents — **cholinolytic** *n*

cho·li·no·mi·met·ic \-məˈmed·ik, -(ˌ)mīˈ-\ *adj* [ISV acetyl*choline* + *-o-* + *mimetic*] : resembling acetylcholine or simulating its physiologic action — **cholinomimetic** *n*

chrome* *n* : something plated with an alloy of chromium

chug·a·lug \ˌchəgəˈləg\ *vb* **chugalugged; chugalugged; chugalugging; chugalugs** [imit.] *vt* : to drink a whole container of in one swallow ~ *vi* : to drink a whole container (as of beer) in one swallow

church key *n* : a can opener with a triangular pointed head for piercing the tops of cans (as of beer)

churn* *vt* : to subject (a client's security account) to excessive numbers of purchases and sales primarily to generate additional commissions

chutz·pah *also* **chutz·pa** *or* **hutz·pah** *or* **hutz·pa** \'kůtspə, 'hů-, -(ˌ)spä\ *n* -S [Yiddish, fr. L Heb *ḥuṣpāh*] : supreme self-confidence : NERVE, GALL

cinema ve·ri·té \ˌ'verəˈtā\ *n* [F *cinéma-vérité* truth cinema] : the art or technique of filming a motion picture (as a documentary) so as to convey candid realism

cir·ca·di·an \(ˌ)sərˈkadēən, ˌsərkəˈdiən\ *adj* [L *circa* about + *dies* day + E *-an* — more at CIRCA, DEITY] : involving or occurring at approximately 24-hour intervals ⟨*circadian* rhythms in insects⟩

cir·cum·planetary \ˌsərkəm +\ *adj* [*circum-* + *planet* + *-ary*] : surrounding and relatively close to a planet ⟨~ space⟩

cir·cum·solar \" +\ *adj* [*circum-* + *solar*] : revolving about or surrounding the sun

cir·cum·stellar \" +\ *adj* [*circum-* + *stellar*] : surrounding or occurring in the vicinity of a star

cir·cum·terrestrial \" +\ *adj* [*circum-* + *terrestrial*] : revolving about or surrounding the earth

cis·lu·nar \(ˌ)sis +\ *adj* [*cis-* + *lunar*] : of or relating to the space between the earth and the moon or the moon's orbit

cis·tron \'siˌsträn\ *n* -S [*cis-*trans + *²-on*] : a segment of a DNA molecule that carries the code for a single polypeptide — compare OPERON *herein* — **cis·tron·ic** \siˈstränik\ *adj*

citizen's arrest *n* : an arrest made by a citizen who derives his authority from the fact that he is a citizen

citizens band *n* : one of the frequency bands that in the U. S. is allocated officially for private radio communications

clad* *adj, of a coin* : consisting of outer layers of one metal bonded to a core of a different metal

clado·genesis \ˌkladō +\ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *klados* branch + *genesis* — more at GLADIATOR] : evolutionary change that is essentially adaptive to different ecological niches — **cladogenetic** \"+\ *adj* — **cladogenetically** \"+\ *adv*

clang·er \'klaŋə(r, -aiŋ-\ *n* -S [*²clang* + *-er*] *Brit* : a conspicuous blunder; *also* : an inappropriate remark — often used in the phrase *drop a clanger*

class action *n* : a legal action undertaken by one or more plaintiffs on behalf of themselves and all other persons having an identical interest in the alleged wrong

clathrate *n* -S [*clathrate*, adj.] : a clathrate compound

clath·ra·tion \klaˈthrāshən\ *n* -S [*clathrate* + *-ion*] : the process of clathrate formation

clean room \'ˌēˌ\ *n* : a room for the manufacture or assembly of objects (as precision parts) that is maintained at a high level of cleanliness by special means

clear–air turbulence *n* : sudden severe turbulence occurring in cloudless regions that causes violent jarring or buffeting of aircraft passing through — abbr. *C A T*

cleaver* *n* : a rock ridge protruding from a glacier or snowfield

clio* *n, usu cap* : any of several statuettes awarded annually by a professional organization for notable achievement in radio and television commercials

clone *vt* : to grow as a clone or culture into a clone

closed* *adj* **1** : traced by a moving point that returns to an arbitrary starting point ⟨~ curve⟩; *also* : so formed that every plane section is a closed curve ⟨~ surface⟩ **2** : characterized by mathematical elements that when subjected to an operation produce only elements of the same set ⟨the set of whole numbers is ~ under addition and multiplication⟩

closed loop *n* : an automatic control system for an operation or process consisting of a closed transmission path or a group of

such paths linked together that by feedback acts to maintain the output at the desired level

closet queen *n* : one who secretly engages in homosexual activities while leading an ostensibly heterosexual life

closing* *n* : a meeting between parties to a real-estate deal usu. together with their attorneys and interested parties (as a mortgagor) for the purpose of formally transferring title

closing costs *n pl* : expenses (as for appraisal, title search, and title insurance) connected with the purchase of real estate that usu. constitute a charge against the purchaser additional to the cost of the property purchased

closure* *n* : the property of being mathematically closed

cloud nine *n* [perh. so called fr. the ninth and highest heaven of Dante's Paradise, whose inhabitants are most blissful because nearest to God] : a feeling of extreme well-being or elation — usu. used with *on* ⟨was on *cloud nine* after his victory⟩

clout* *n* : PULL, INFLUENCE ⟨had a lot of ~ with the governor⟩

clox·a·cil·lin \ˌkläksəˈsilən\ *n* -s [*chl*orophenol + *iso*xa*zole* + *penicillin*] : a synthetic oral penicillin esp. effective against staphylococci

cloze \ˈklōz\ *adj* [by shortening & alter. fr. *closure*] : of, relating to, or being a test of reading comprehension that involves having the person being tested supply words which have been systematically deleted from a text

cluster* *n* : a group of buildings and esp. houses built close together on a sizable tract in order to preserve open spaces larger than the individual yard for common recreation

cluster college *n* : a small residential college constituting a semiautonomous division of a university and usu. specializing in one branch of knowledge (as history and the social sciences)

CN* *abbr* chloroacetophenone

co·an·da effect \kōˈandə-, -än-\ *n, usu cap C* [after Henri *Coanda* *b*1886 Romanian engineer] : the tendency of a jet of fluid emerging from an orifice to follow an adjacent flat or curved surface and to entrain fluid from the surroundings so that a region of lower pressure develops

co·bol \ˈkōˌbȯl\ *n* -s *usu cap C or all cap* [*co*mmon *b*usiness *o*riented *l*anguage] : a standardized business language for programming a computer

cock·a·ma·my *or* **cock·a·ma·mie** \ˈkäkəˌmāmē\ *adj* [perh. fr. (assumed) *cockamamy* decalcomania, alter. of *decalcomania*] : RIDICULOUS, INCREDIBLE ⟨of all the ~ excuses I ever heard —Leo Rosten⟩

code* *n* : GENETIC CODE *herein*

co·don \ˈkōˌdän\ *n* -s [*²code* + *²-on*] : a triplet of nucleotide units that specify a particular amino acid in the genetic code

coenzyme Q *n* [*Q* prob. fr. *quinone*] : a quinone that functions as an electron transfer agent between cytochromes in the citric acid cycle — called also *ubiquinone*

coes·ite \ˈkōˌzīt\ *n* -s [Loring *Coes*, Jr., *b*1915 Am. chemist + E *-ite*] : a dense crystalline silica formed from quartz under great heat and pressure and found in meteorite craters

coincident* *or* **coincident indicator** *n* : an economic indicator (as level of personal income or of retail sales) that more often than not correlates directly with the state of the economy

co·institutional \ˌkō +\ *adj* [*co-* + *institutional*] : of, relating to, or being a high school having separate class or activity areas for boys and girls

cold duck *n* [trans. of G *kalte ente*, a drink made of a mixture of fine wines] : a beverage that consists of a blend of sparkling burgundy and champagne

cold weld** *vi* : to adhere on contact without application of pressure or heat — used of metals in the vacuum of outer space

collegiality* *n* : the participation of bishops in the government of the Roman Catholic Church in collaboration with the pope — **collegial*** *adj* — **col·le·gial·ly** *adv*

color–field *adj* : of, relating to, or being abstract painting in which color is emphasized and form and surface are correspondingly de-emphasized ⟨*color-field* abstractionists⟩

color painting *n* : color-field painting — **color painter** *n*

combinatorial mathematics *n pl but sing in constr* : a study that deals with the arrangement, operation, and selection of mathematical elements within finite sets and configurations

combinatorial topology *n* : a study that deals with geometric forms based on their decomposition into combinations of the simplest geometric figures

com·bi·na·to·rics \kəmˌbīnəˈtōriks, -ȯr-\ *n pl but sing in constr* [*combinatori*al mathema*tics*] : COMBINATORIAL MATHEMATICS *herein*

comb–out* *n* : the combing of hair into a desired hairdo

come·back·er \ˈkəmˌbakə(r\ *n* -s [*come back* + *-er*] : a grounder in baseball hit directly to the pitcher

come on* *vi* : to behave or perform in a specified manner : ACT ⟨*come on* strong⟩

command* *n* **1** : an electrical or electronic signal that actuates a device (as a control mechanism in a spacecraft or one step in a computer) **2** : the activation of a device in or the control of a vehicle (as a spacecraft) by means of a command

command module *n* : a space vehicle module designed to carry the crew, the chief communication equipment, and the equipment for reentry

commentator* *n* : a layman who leads a congregation in prayer at Mass or explains the rituals performed by the priest

common market *n* : an economic unit formed to remove trade barriers among members

common trust fund *n* : a fund which is managed by a bank or trust company and in which the assets of many small trusts are handled as a single portfolio with individual beneficiaries receiving returns proportionate to their share of the principal

communication theory *or* **communications theory** *n* : a theory that deals with the technology of the transmission of information (as in the printed word or a computer) between men or men and machines or machines and machines

community antenna television *n* : a system of television reception in which signals from distant stations are picked up by a tall or elevated antenna and sent by cable to the individual receivers of paying subscribers

com·mu·ta·tiv·i·ty \kəˌmyüd·əˈtivəd·ē, ˌkämyəˈtə-\ *n* -ES [*commutative* + *-ity*] : the property of being commutative

commute* *vi* : to yield the same result regardless of order — used of two mathematical elements undergoing an operation or of two operations on elements

com·mute \kəˈmyüt\ *n* -s [*commute*, v.] **1** : an act or instance of commuting ⟨his usual morning ~ to work—*Newsweek*⟩ **2** : the distance covered in commuting ⟨about an hour's ~ from the university —*College Composition & Communication*⟩

com·pact·ible \kəmˈpaktəbəl\ *adj* [*²compact* + *-ible*] : capable of being compacted ⟨~ soils⟩

compiler* *n* : a computer program that automatically converts instructions written in a higher-level language (as Fortran) into machine language

complementation* *n* : the determination of the complement of a given mathematical set

complex conjugate *n* : a complex number formed from another complex number by changing the sign of its imaginary part

computational linguistics *n* : linguistic research carried out by means of a computer

com·put·er·ese \kəmˌpyüd·əˈrēz, -üt·-, -ēs\ *n* -s [*computer* + *-ese*] **1** : MACHINE LANGUAGE *herein* **2** : jargon used by computer technologists

com·put·er·ize \kəmˈpyüd·əˌrīz, -üt·\ *vt* -ED/-ING/-S [*computer* + *-ize*] **1** : to carry out or conduct by means of a computer : control by means of a computer ⟨*computerized* typesetting⟩ ⟨~ a process⟩ **2** : to equip with computers ⟨a *computerized* society⟩ — **com·put·er·iz·able** \-ˈīzəbəl\ *adj* — **com·put·er·iza·tion** \-ˌpyüd·ərəˈzāshən, -ˌrīˈz-\ *n* -S

com·sat \ˈkäm,sat\ *n* -S [fr. *Comsat*, a service mark] : an artificial satellite of the earth used for reflecting or relaying radio waves (as for intercontinental communication)

concrete* *adj* : of or relating to concrete poetry ⟨~ poet⟩

concrete* *n* **1** : CONCRETE POETRY *herein* **2** : a concrete poet

concrete poetry *n* : poetry in which the poet's intent is conveyed by the graphic patterns of letters, words, or symbols rather than by the conventional arrangement of words

concretism* *n* -S : the theory or practice of concrete poetry — **con·cret·ist** \-ēd·əst, -ētə-\ *n* -S

cong *n, pl* **cong** *usu cap* [by shortening] : VIETCONG *herein*

conglomerate* *n* : a widely diversified company; *esp* : a corporation that acquires other companies whose activities are unrelated to the corporation's primary activity

conk \ˈkäŋk, ˈkȯŋk\ *vt* -ED/-ING/-S [origin unknown] : to treat (as kinky hair) so as to straighten

conservation of angular momentum : a principle in physics: the total angular momentum of a system free of external torque remains constant irrespective of transformations and interactions within the system

conservation of baryon number : a principle in physics: the baryon number of an isolated system of elementary particles remains constant irrespective of transformations or decays

conservation of lepton number : a principle in physics: the lepton number of an isolated system of elementary particles remains constant regardless of transformations or decays

conserve* *vt* : to maintain (a quantity) constant during a process of chemical or physical change ⟨~ energy⟩

consolidation* *n* : a period of backing and filling in a security or commodity market usu. following a strong run-up of prices and typically preceding a further active advance

con·sum·er·ism \kənˈsümə,rizəm\ *n* -S [*consumer* + *-ism*] : the promotion of consumer's interests (as against false advertising or shoddy goods) — **consumerist** *n*

con·tain·er·iza·tion \kənˌtānərəˈzāshən, -ˌrīˈz-\ *n* -S [*containerize* (herein) + *-ation*] : a method of shipping whereby a considerable amount of material (as merchandise) is packaged together in one large container

con·tain·er·ize \kənˈtānəˌrīz\ *vt* -ED/-ING/-S [*container* + *-ize*] : to ship by containerization ⟨*containerized* freight⟩

con·tain·er·ship \-nə(r),ship\ *n* [*container* + *¹ship*] : a ship esp. designed or equipped for carrying containerized cargo

continuous creation theory *n* : STEADY STATE THEORY *herein*

con·toid \ˈkänˌtȯid\ *n* -S [*conso*nant + *-oid*] : a speech sound of a phonetic rather than phonemic classification that includes most sounds traditionally treated as consonants and that excludes those (as English \y\, \w\, \r\, and \h\) which like vowels are characterized by the escape of air from the mouth over the center of the tongue without oral friction — compare VOCOID *in the Dict*

con·tra·test \ˈkänˌtrəˌst\ *adj* [*contra-* + *test*] : of, relating to, or serving as an experiment control

convenience foods *n pl* : packaged foods designed for quick and easy preparation

cooking top *n* : a built-in cabinet-top cooking apparatus consisting of four heating units for gas or electricity

cooktop \ˈˌ=\ *n* [*²cook* + *top*] : the flat top of a range

cool* *adj* : employing understatement and a minimum of detail to convey information and usu. requiring the listener, viewer, or reader to complete the message ⟨another indication of the very ~ . . . character of this medium —Marshall McLuhan⟩

cool* *vb* — **cool it** : to cool one's temper : go easy

coordinate* *n* **coordinates** *pl* : articles (as of clothing or furniture) designed to be used together and to attain their effect through pleasing contrast (as of color, material, or texture)

cop out* *vi* : to back out (as of an unwanted responsibility) — often used with *on* or *of* ⟨young Americans who *cop out* on society —*Christian Science Monitor*⟩ ⟨*copping out* of jury duty through a variety of machinations —H.F.Waters⟩

cop–out \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* [*cop out* (herein)] **1** : an excuse for copping out : PRETEXT **2** : the means for copping out **3** : one who cops out **4** : the act or an instance of copping out

cor·al·ene \ˈkȯrəˌlēn, ˈkär-\ *n* -S [irreg. fr. *¹coral*] **1** : a raised decoration of glass beading on glassware **2** : glassware with coralene decoration

cord·less \ˈkȯ(ə)rdləs, -ȯ(ə)d-\ *adj* [*¹cord* + *-less*] : having no cord; *esp* : powered by a battery ⟨~ tools⟩

core city *n* : INNER CITY *herein*

corn chip *n* : a piece of a crisp dry snack food prepared from a seasoned cornmeal batter

corner* *adj* : of, relating to, or being a defensive football player who covers one of the flanks ⟨~ linebacker⟩ ⟨~ positions⟩

cornerback \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* [*corner* (herein) + *¹back*] : a defensive halfback in football whose duties include defending the flank and covering a wide receiver

cor·ner·man \ˈ=ˌman\ *n, pl* **corner·men** \-ˌmen\ [*corner* + *man*] : one that is in a corner: as **a** : CORNERBACK *herein* **b** : a basketball forward

cor·pus al·la·tum \ˌkȯrpəsəˈlād·əm, -äd··\ *n, pl* **cor·po·ra al·la·ta** \ˌkȯrpərə·əˈlād·ə, -äd··\ [NL, lit., applied body] : one of a pair of separate or fused bodies in many insects that are sometimes closely associated with the corpora cardiaca and secrete hormones (as juvenile hormone)

corpus car·di·a·cum \-pəskärˈdīəkəm\ *n, pl* **cor·po·ra car·di·a·ca** \-pərəkärˈdīəkə\ [NL, lit., cardiac body] : one of a pair of separate or fused bodies of nervous tissue in many insects that lie posterior to the brain and dorsal to the esophagus and function in the storage and secretion of a hormonal substance which stimulates prothoracic gland secretion

cos·mo·drome \ˈkäzməˌdrōm\ *n* -S [Russ *Kosmodrom*, fr. *Kosmo*naut cosmonaut + *-drom* ¹-drome] : a Soviet aerospace center; *esp* : a Soviet spacecraft launching installation

cos·mo·gen·ic \ˌkäzməˈjenik\ *adj* [*cosmic* ray + *-o-* + *-genic*] : produced by the action of cosmic rays ⟨~ carbon 14⟩

cos·mo·nau·tics \ˌkäzməˈnȯd·iks, -ȯti-\ *n pl but usu sing in constr* [*cosmonant* + *-ics*] : ASTRONAUTICS

cost–effective \ˈ=ˌ=ˌ=\ *adj* : economical in terms of tangible benefits produced by money spent — **cost–effectiveness** *n*

cost–push \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* : an increase or upward trend in production costs (as wages) that tends to result in increased consumer prices irrespective of the level of demand — compare DEMAND–PULL *herein* — **cost–push** *adj*

co·terminal \(ˈ)kōˈ+\ *adj* [*co-* + *terminal*] : having different angular measure but with the vertex and sides identical—used of angles generated by the rotation of lines about the same point in a given line whose values differ by an integral multiple of 2π radians or of 360° ⟨~ angles measuring 30° and 390°⟩

cou·chette \kü'shet\ *n* -S [F, berth, bunk, dim. of *couche* bed, fr. MF — more at COUCH] **1** : a compartment on a European passenger train so arranged that berths can be provided at night **2** : one of the berths in a couchette

cou·lom·bic \(ˈ)kü¦läm(b)ik, -lōm-\ *adj* [ISV *coulomb* + *-ic*] : of or relating to electrostatic coulomb forces

coun·ter* *n* : a football play in which the ballcarrier goes in a direction opposite to the flow of play

coun·ter·example \ˈ=ˌ=+\ *n* [*counter-* + *example*] : an example that is inconsistent with or contrary to what is typical or usual : a disproving example

coun·ter·insurgency \ˈ +\ *n* [*counter-* + *insurgency*] : organized activity designed to deal with insurgency — **coun·ter·insurgent** \ˈ +\ *n*

country* *adj* : having or using lyrics or style identified with country music ⟨~ singer⟩

country and western *adj, sometimes cap C & often cap W* : having or using lyrics, style, or string instrumentation identified with country music of western U.S. origin

crambe* *n* -S : an annual Mediterranean herb (*Crambe abyssinica*) cultivated as an oilseed crop

cranberry glass *n* : clear ruby glass usu. with a blue-violet tint

crash pad* *n* : an apartment where free lodging is available

crashworthy \ˈˌ=ˌ=\ *adj* [*²crash* + *-worthy* (as in *seaworthy*)] : resistant to the effects of a collision ⟨~ cars⟩ — **crash·worthiness** *n*

crawl·er·way \ˈ=ˌ=ˌ=\ *n* [*crawler* + *way;* fr. its slow-moving traffic] : a road built esp. for moving heavy rockets and spacecraft

crawlway \ˈˌ=ˌ=\ *n* [*crawl* + *way*] : a low passageway (as in a cave) that can be traversed only by crawling

credibility gap *n* **1 a** : lack of trust ⟨a special *credibility gap* is likely to open between the generations —Kenneth Keniston⟩ **b** : lack of believability ⟨a *credibility gap* created by contradictory official statements —Samuel Ellenport⟩ **2** : DISCREPANCY ⟨the *credibility gap* between the professed ideals . . . and their actual practices —Jeanne Noble⟩

creditworthy \ˈ=ˌ=ˌ=\ *adj* [*¹credit* + *worthy*] : being financially sound enough to justify the extension of credit : having an acceptable credit rating — **creditworthiness** *n*

creeping* *adj* : developing or advancing by slow imperceptible degrees ⟨~ socialism⟩

cre·mains \krəˈmānz, krē'-\ *n pl* [blend of *cremated* and *remains*] : the ashes of a cremated human body

crew sock *n* [so called fr. its use by rowing crews] : a short bulky usu. ribbed sock

crista* *n* : any of the inwardly projecting folds of the inner membrane of a mitochondrion

cruise* *vi* : to search (as in public places) for a sexual partner

crunch* *n* : a tight or critical situation: as **a** : a critical point in the buildup of pressure between opposing elements : SHOWDOWN **b** : a severe economic squeeze (as on credit)

cryo·biology \ˌkrīō+\ *n* [*cry-* + *biology*] : the study of the effects of extremely low temperature on biological systems — **cryo·biological** \ˈ+\ *adj* — **cryo·biologically** \ˈ+\ *adv* — **cryo·biologist** \ˈ+\ *n*

cryo·chemistry \ˈ+\ *n* [*cry-* + *chemistry*] : chemistry dealing with processes carried out at very low temperatures — **cryochemical** *adj* — **cryochemically** *adv*

cryo·electronics \ˈ+\ *n pl but sing in constr* [*cry-* + *electronics*] : a branch of electronics that employs cryogenic methods to bring about a desired effect (as superconductivity)

cryogenic* *adj* **1** : being or relating to a very low temperature ⟨a ~ temperature of −50°C⟩ **2 a** : requiring or involving the use of a cryogenic temperature **b** : requiring cryogenic storage **c** : suitable for the storage of a cryogenic substance ⟨a ~ container⟩ — **cry·o·gen·i·cal·ly** \-nȯkˈ(ə)lē\ *adv*

cry·on·ics \krīˈänəks\ *n pl but usu sing in constr* [*cry*obiology (herein) + *-onics* (as in *electronics*)] : the practice of freezing a dead diseased human being for the purpose of bringing him back to life at some future time supposedly when a cure for his disease has been developed — **cry·on·ic** \(ˈ)krīˈänik\ *adj*

cryo·precipitate \ˌkrīō+\ *n* [*cry-* + *precipitate*] : a precipitate that is formed by cooling a solution — **cryo·precipitation** \ˈ+\ *n*

cryo·pump \ˈkrīōˌ=\ *n* [*cry-* + *pump*] : a vacuum pump whose operation involves the freezing and absorption of gases on cold surfaces at very low temperatures — **cryopump** *vi*

cryo·surgery \ˌkrīō+\ *n* [*cry-* + *surgery*] : surgical procedures in which extreme controlled chilling (as by use of liquid nitrogen) produces desired dissection — **cryo·surgeon** \ˈ+\ *n* — **cryo·surgical** \ˈ+\ *adj*

cryp·to·biosis \ˌkrip(ˌ)tō+\ *n, pl* **cryptobioses** [NL, fr. *crypt-* + *-biosis*] : the reversible cessation of metabolism under extreme environmental conditions (as low temperature)

cui·se·naire colored rod \ˌkwēzᵊnˈa(ə)r-, -ˌe(-\ *n, usu cap 1st C* [fr. *Cuisenaire*, a trademark] : any of a set of colored rods that are usu. of 1 centimeter cross section and of ten lengths from 1 to 10 centimeters and that are used for teaching number concepts and the basic operations of arithmetic

cup·pa \ˈkəpə\ *n* -S [short for *cuppa tea*, pronunciation spelling of *cup of tea*] *chiefly Brit* : a cup of tea

cu·ri·age \ˈkyůrēij, kyəˈr-\ *n* -S [*curie* + *-age*] : the strength of radioactivity expressed in curies

curl* *n* : a hollow arch of water formed when the crest of a breaking wave spills forward — called also *tube, tunnel*

curve* *vt* : to throw a curve to (a batter) in baseball

custard glass *n* : opaque glass of creamy buff color

cut* *n* : BAND 8

cutback* *n* : a surfing maneuver in which a surfboard is turned back toward the crest of the wave

cy·ber·culture \ˈsībə(r)+\ *n* [*cyber*netics + *culture*] : a society that is served by cybernated industry — **cy·ber·cultural** \ˌsībə(r)+\ *adj*

cy·ber·nat·ed \ˈsībə(r),nād·əd\ *adj* [fr. *cybernation* (herein); after such pairs as E *automation*: *automated*] : involving cybernation; *also* : characterized by the use of cybernation

cy·ber·na·tion \ˌsībə(r)ˈnāshən\ *n* -S [*cyber*netics + *-ation*] : the automatic control of a process or operation (as in manufacturing) by means of computers

cy·borg \ˈsīˌbȯrg\ *n* -S [*cy*bernetic + *org*anism] : a human linked with mechanical devices that perform some of the vital physiological functions

cy·clo·phos·pha·mide \ˌsīklōˈfäsfəˌmīd, ˌsik-, -ˌməd\ *n* [prob. fr. *cycl-* + *phosph-* + *amide*] : a drug used esp. to suppress immunity reactions (as in tissue transplantation) and to induce temporary remission of some leukemias

cyclotron resonance *n* : the absorption of electromagnetic energy by a charged particle orbiting in a magnetic field when the electromagnetic and orbital frequencies are equal

cy·to·chimera \ˌsīd·ōˈ+\ *n* [NL, fr. *cyt-* + *chimera*] : an individual (as a plant, an organ, or a tissue) having cells of varied genetic constitution and esp. of various ploidy levels

cyto·differentiation \ˈ+\ *n* [*cyt-* + *differentiation*] : the development of specialized cells (as muscle, blood, or nerve cells) from undifferentiated precursors

cyto·ecology \ˈ+\ *n* [*cyt-* + *ecology*] : the study of organismic adaptation at the molecular and cellular level — **cyto·ecological** \ˈ+\ *adj*

cyto·kinin \ˈ+\ *n* [*cyt-* + *kinin* (herein)] : any of various adenines with an amino group attached at the number six position that are plant growth substances

cy·to·stat·ic \ˌsīd·əˈstad·ik\ *adj* [*cyt-* + Gk *statikos* causing to stand — more at STATIC] : tending to retard cellular activity and multiplication — **cytostatic** *n* -S — **cy·to·stat·i·cal·ly** \-ad·ək(ə)lē\ *adv*

cy·to·technologist \ˌsīd·ōˈ+\ *or* **cy·to·technician** \ˈ+\ *n* [*cyt-* + *technologist* or *technician*] : a person trained to do preliminary screening of and to assist a pathologist in the study of cytological preparations for the detection of cancer

da* *abbr* deka-

dal·a·pon \ˈdaləˌpän\ *n* -S [prob. fr. *di-* + *alpha* + *propionic* acid] : an herbicide used esp. on unwanted grasses

dal·ton \ˈdȯlt-ᵊn\ *n* -S [after John *Dalton* †1844 Eng. chemist and physicist] : ATOMIC MASS UNIT

damsel bug *n* : any of a family (Nabidae) of small brown or black bugs that feed on pest insects

dan \ˈdän\ *n* -S [Jap, step, grade] : a proficiency grade in some Japanese arts of self-defense (as judo) and games (as shogi)

das *abbr* dekastere *herein*

da·shi·ki \däˈshēke, -də·\ *n* -S [of African origin] : a usu. brightly colored loose-fitting one-piece pullover garment worn esp. by men

data processing *n* : the converting (as by electronic computers or mechanical sorting devices) of crude information into usable or storable form — **data processor** *n*

day trader *n* : a speculator who seeks profit from the intraday fluctuation in the price of a security or commodity and therefore completes double trades of buying and selling or selling and covering in the course of single sessions of the market — **day–trade** \ˈ=ˌ=\ *vi or vb*

DDVP *n* -S [*di*methyl + *d*ichlor- + *v*inyl + *p*hosphate] : a volatile organophosphate insecticide

dead drop *n* [so called from the absence of personal contact between the agents] : a prearranged hiding place for the deposit and pickup of information obtained through espionage

dear john \dē(ə)rˈjän, diəˈj-\ *n, usu cap D&J* : a letter (as to a soldier) in which a wife asks for a divorce or a girl friend breaks off an engagement or a friendship

de·boost \(ˈ)dēˌdə+\ *n* [*de-* + *boost*] : the process of slowing down a spacecraft ⟨before ~ into low orbit —C.J.Sitomer⟩

debrief* *vt* : to instruct not to reveal classified information after release from a sensitive position

debug* *vt* : to remove a concealed microphone or wiretapping device from ⟨~ a room⟩

deca·met·ric \ˌdekəˈmetrik\ *adj* [*decameter* + *-ic*; fr. the wavelength range being between 1 and 10 dekameters] : of, relating to, or being a radio wave of high frequency

deciding *adj* [fr. pres. part. of *decide*] : having the effect of settling a contest or controversy ⟨the ~ run⟩ ⟨the ~ vote⟩

deck* *n* : TAPE DECK *herein*

declining–balance method *n* : a method of calculating periodic depreciation that involves determining at regular (as annual) intervals throughout the expected life of an asset of equal percentage amounts of a cost balance which is progressively decreased by subtraction of each prior increment of depreciation from the original cost of the asset — compare STRAIGHT-LINE METHOD *in the Dict*

de·colonization \(ˌ)dēˌ dəˌ+\ *n* [*de-* + *colonization*] : the act or process of granting independence to a colony

de·colonize \(ˈ)dēˌ dəˌ+\ *vb* [*de-* + *colonize*] *vi* : to grant independence to a colony ~ *vt* : to free from colonial status

deep* *adv* : near the outer limits of an athletic playing area

deep space* *n* : space well beyond the limits of the earth's atmosphere including space outside the solar system

deep structure *n* : a formal representation of the underlying

semantic content of a sentence; *also* : the structure which such a representation specifies

de-escalate \(')dē+\ *vb* [*de-* + *escalate*] *vi* : to decrease in extent, volume, number, amount, or scope : DIMINISH ~ *vt* : to decrease the extent, volume, number, amount, or scope of ⟨my sister . . . tried to *de-escalate* our feud —H.A.Smith⟩

de-escalation \(ˌ)dē+\ *n* [*de-* + *escalation*] : a decreasing in extent, volume, number, amount, or scope

de-es-ca-la-tor \(')dēˌes|kəˌlād-ə(r)\ *n* -s [*de-escalate* + *-or*] : an advocate of de-escalation

de-es-ca-la-to-ry \-ˌlə,tōrē\ *adj* [*de-escalate* + *-ory*] : of or relating to de-escalation

defensive* *adj* : of, relating to, or being industries (as foods, utilities, and insurance) which provide essential needs to the ultimate consumer and in which business activity is relatively insensitive to changes in general business activity

deferred income* *n* : current income forgone to produce a later higher income (as at retirement)

de-fibrillate \(')dē, də+\ *vt* [de- + *fibrillate*] : to restore the rhythm of (a fibrillating heart) — **de-fibrillation** \(ˌ)dē, də + \ *n* — **de-fi-bril-la-tor** \dēˈfibrəˌlād-ə(r)\ *n*

¹de-focus \(')dē, də+\ *vb* [*de-* + *focus*] *vt* : to cause (as a beam of radiation or a lens) to deviate from an accurate focus ~ *vi* : to lose accuracy of focus : become defocused

²defocus \"\ *n* : a result of defocusing; *esp* : an image (as on motion-picture film) deliberately blurred for dramatic effect

de-fog \(')dē, də+\ *vt* [*de-* + *fog*] : to remove fog or condensed moisture from : keep free of fog — **de-fog-ger** *n*

de-grad-able \dəˈgrādəbəl, dē-\ *adj* [*degrade* + *-able*] : capable of being chemically degraded ⟨~ detergents⟩

de-industrialization \ˌdē+\ *n* [*de-* + *industrialization*] : the act or process of reducing or destroying the industrial organization and potential esp. of a defeated nation

deka-gram *n* -s [by alter.] : DECAGRAM

deka-li-ter *n* -s [by alter.] : DECALITER

deka-me-ter *n* -s [by alter.] : ²DECAMETER

deka-stere *n* -s [by alter.] : DECASTERE

delay* *n* : a play in football in which an offensive back delays momentarily as if to block and then runs his prescribed pattern

deli \'delē, -li\ *or* **del-ly** *n*, *pl* **del-is** *or* **del-lies** [by shortening] : DELICATESSEN

deliver* *vi* : to produce the promised, desired, or expected results : come through ⟨failed to ~ on their promises⟩

demand-pull \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* [¹*demand* + ²*pull*] : an increase or upward trend in spendable money that tends to result in increased competition for available goods and services and a corresponding increase in consumer prices — compare COST-PUSH *herein* — **demand-pull** *adj*

dem-e-ton \'demə,tän\ *n* -s [prob. fr. *di*ethyl + *m*ercapt- + *thion*ate] : an organophosphate systemic insecticide

de-moth-ball \(')dē+\ *vt* [*de-* + *mothball*] : to remove the preservative covering in order to reactivate (as ships)

den-som-e-ter \denˈsämədə(r)\ *n* -s [ISV *dens-* (fr. L *densus* dense) + *-o-* + *-meter*] **1** : an instrument for measuring the porosity of paper by forcing air through it **2** : DENSIMETER

de-nu-cle-ar-ize \(')dēˈn(y)ükliəˌrīz\ *vt* -ED/-ING/-S *see -ize in Explan Notes* [*de-* + *nuclear* + *-ize*] : to remove nuclear arms from : prohibit the use of nuclear arms in

¹de-orbit \(')dē+\ *vb* [*de-* + *orbit*] *vi* : to go out of orbit ~ *vt* : to cause to deorbit ⟨~ a spacecraft⟩

²deorbit \"\ *n* : the process of deorbiting

de-pic-ture \dəˈpikchə(r), dē-, -ksh-\ *vt* [blend of *depict* and ²*picture*] **1** : DEPICT **2** : IMAGINE

de-politicize \ˌdē+\ *vt* [*de-* + *politicize*] : to remove the political character from : take out of the realm of politics

de-pressurize \(')dē+\ *vt* [*de-* + *pressurize*] : to release (as a pressurized aircraft) from pressure

de-rail-leur \ˌdā(ˌ)rāˈlyər\ *n* -s [F *dérailleur*, fr. *dérailler* to throw off the track (fr. *dé-* de- + *rail* rail, fr. E) + *-eur* -or] **1** : a multiple-speed gear mechanism on a bicycle that involves the moving of the chain from one sprocket to another ⟨10-speed ~⟩ **2** : a bicycle having a derailleur

de-repress \ˌdē+\ *vt* [*de-* + *repress*] : to activate (a gene) by releasing from a blocked state — **de-repression** \"+\ *n*

derrick* *vt* : to remove (a pitcher) from a baseball game : YANK

de-sa-li-nate \(')dēˈsalə,nāt, -sā-\ *vt* -ED/-ING/-S [*de-* + *salin-* + *-ate*] : to remove salt from ⟨~ seawater⟩ — **de-sa-li-na-tor** \-nād-ə(r)\ *n* -s

de-sa-li-nize \-,nīz\ *vt* [*de-* + *salinize*] : DESALINATE *herein*

descriptor* *n* : a word or phrase (as an index term) used to identify an item (as a subject or document) esp. in an information retrieval system; *also* : an alphanumeric symbol so used

de-select \ˌdē+\ *vt* [*de-* + *select*] : to dismiss (a trainee) from a training program

de-sta-lin-iza-tion \(ˌ)dēˌstälənəˈzāshən, -tal-, -ˌnī'z-\ *n* -s [*destalinize* + *-ation*] : the deflation of Stalin and his policies

de-struct \'dēˌstrəkt, dəˈs-, dēˈs-\ *n* -s [short for *destruction*] : the deliberate destruction of a rocket after launching esp. during a test; *also* : such destruction of a device or material (as to prevent its falling into enemy hands)

detonate* *vt* : to set off in a burst of activity : ACTIVATE

deu-ter-ate \'d(y)üdəˌrāt\ *vt* -ED/-ING/-S [*deuter*ium + *-ate*, vb. suffix] : to introduce deuterium into (a compound)

de-vel-op-ing *adj* : UNDERDEVELOPED 3 ⟨~ nations⟩

dexa-meth-a-sone \ˌdeksəˈmethəˌsōn, -ˌzōn\ *n* -s [perh. fr. *Dexa*myl, a trademark + *methyl* + *-sone* (as in *cortisone*)] : a synthetic steroid that is a cortisone analogue with comparable anti-inflammatory and antiallergic effects

dic-ey \'dīsē\ *adj* [²*dice* + *-y*] : RISKY, UNPREDICTABLE ⟨a very ~ operation —*Newsweek*⟩

dich-otic \(')dīˈkōd-ik\ *adj* [*dich-* + *-otic*] : affecting or relating to the two ears differently in regard to a conscious aspect (as pitch or loudness) or a physical aspect (as frequency or energy) of sound — **dich-oti-cal-ly** \-d-ək(ə)lē\ *adv*

di-functional \(')dī+\ *adj* [*di-* + *functional*] : of, relating to, or being a compound with two sites in the molecule that are highly reactive — **di-functionality** \(ˌ)dī+\ *n*

dig-i-tal-ize \'dijəd-ᵊlˌīz\ *vt* -ED/-ING/-S [¹*digital* + *-ize*] : DIGITIZE

di-meth-o-ate \dīˈmethəˌwāt\ *n* -s [*dimethyl* + *-thioic* + ¹*-ate*] : an insecticide used on livestock and various crops

di-meth-yl-sulf-ox-ide \ˌdī,methəlˌsəlˈfäkˌsīd, -ˌsād\ *n* [*dimethyl* + *sulfoxide*] : a compound obtained as a by-product in wood-pulp manufacture and used as a solvent and in experimental medicine — called also *DMSO*

di-meth-yl-tryptamine \ˌdī,methəl+\ *n* [*dimethyl* + *tryptamine*] : an easily synthesized hallucinogenic drug that is chemically similar to but shorter acting than psilocybin — called also *DMT*

dinch \'dinch\ *vt* -ED/-ING/-ES [origin unknown] : to extinguish by crushing ⟨~ a cigarette⟩

diner-out \ˈdīnəˌrau̇t\ *n*, *pl* **diners-out** [*dine out* + *-er*] : one who dines away from home esp. in the course of an active social life ⟨a constant *diner-out* —Thomas Wolfe⟩

director's chair *n* [so called fr. its use by movie directors] : a lightweight folding armchair with a back and seat usu. of cotton duck

directrix* *n* : a line or curve with which a generatrix of a surface remains in contact

dirham* *also* **dirhem*** *n* **1** : the basic monetary unit of Morocco established in 1959 — see MONEY table *in the Dict* **2** : a coin representing one dirham

dis-bound \(')dis+\ *adj* [¹*dis-* + ⁴*bound*] : no longer having a binding ⟨a ~ pamphlet⟩

dis-co-theque \ˌdiskəˈtek, ˌdēs-, -kōˈt-\ *n* -s [F *discothèque* collection of phonograph records, discotheque, fr. *disque* disk (fr. L *discus*) + *-o-* + *-thèque* (as in *bibliothèque* library, fr. L *bibliotheca*) — more at DISH, BIBLIOTHECA] : a usu. small intimate nightclub for dancing to recorded music; *broadly* : a nightclub often featuring psychedelic and mixed-media attractions (as slides, movies, and special lighting effects)

dis-cret-iza-tion \(ˌ)disˌkrēd-əˈzāshən\ *n* -s [*discrete* + *-ization*] : the action of making mathematically discrete : the state of being mathematically discrete

dishware \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* [¹*dish* + *ware*] : tableware (as of china) used in serving food

dis-in-sec-tion \ˌdisənˈsekshən\ *n* -s [¹*dis-* + *insect* + *-ion*] : DISINSECTIZATION

dis-in-ter-me-di-a-tion \(ˌ)disˌintə(r),mēdēˈāshən\ *n* [¹*dis-* + *intermediate* + *-ion*; fr. the investor's bypassing of the intermediate institution] : diversion of savings from institutions (as savings banks) with governmentally imposed interest ceilings to direct investment in higher-yielding securities

disjoint* *adj* : lacking common members ⟨~ mathematical sets⟩

disposable *n* -s [*disposable*, adj.] : something (as a paper blanket) that is disposable

di-uron \'dīyəˌrän\ *n* -s [*di-* + *urea* + ¹*-on*] : a persistent herbicide used esp. to control annual weeds

DMSO *n* [*dim*ethylsulfoxide] : DIMETHYLSULFOXIDE *herein*

DMT *n* [*dim*ethyltryptamine] : DIMETHYLTRYPTAMINE *herein*

dock* *vt* : to maneuver and bring (a spacecraft) together with something (as another spacecraft) in space

doggie-bag \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* [²*doggy* + *bag*; fr. the original assumption that such leftovers were destined for the diner's dog] : a bag used for carrying home leftover food and esp. meat from a meal eaten at a restaurant

do-good-ing \'dü,güdiŋ\ *n* -s : the activities of a do-gooder

dogs-body \'dȯgz,bädē *sometimes* 'däg-\ *n*, *chiefly Brit* [Brit. naval slang, midshipman, fr. slang *dog's body* pease pudding] : one who performs menial tasks : DRUDGE

do-it-your-self \ˌdüəchə(r)ˈself, -ətyə-\ *adj* : of, relating to, or designed for use in construction, repair, or artistic work done by an amateur or hobbyist ⟨a *do-it-yourself* car model kit⟩

do-it-your-self-er \-fə(r)\ *n* -s [*do-it-yourself* + ²*-er*] : one who engages in do-it-yourself activities

do-jo \'dōˌ(ˌ)jō\ *n* -s [Jap *dōjō*, fr. *dō* way, art + *-jō* ground] : a place (as a gymnasium) where judo or karate is practiced or taught; *also* : a school that teaches judo or karate

dol-ce vi-ta \ˌdōlchēˈvē(ˌ)tä, -(ˌ)chā-\ *n* [It, lit., sweet life] : a life of indolence and self-indulgence

DOM \ˌdē(ˌ)ōˈem\ *n* [prob. fr. *di*methoxy- + *m*ethyl] : STP *herein*

domestic prelate *n* : a priest having permanent honorary membership in the papal household and ranking above a papal chamberlain

domino effect *n* [so called from the fact that if a number of dominoes are stood on end one behind the other with a slight intervening space, a slight push on the first one will result in the toppling of all the others] : a cumulative effect produced when one event initiates a succession of related events

domino theory *n* [so called fr. the domino effect] : a theory that if one nation in Southeast Asia becomes Communist-controlled the neighboring nations will also become Communist-controlled

done-ness \'dənəs\ *n* -ES [²*done* + *-ness*] : the condition of being cooked to the desired degree

do-pa-mine \'dōpəˌmēn, -ˌmən\ *n* [*dopa* + *amine*] : dopa or a decarboxylated form of this found esp. in the adrenal

dop-ant \'dōpənt\ *n* -s [²*dope* + *-ant*, n. suffix] : an impurity added usu. in minute amounts to a pure substance to alter its properties

doppler radar *n*, *usu cap D* : a radar system utilizing the Doppler effect for measuring velocity

dor-min \'dȯrmən\ *n* [*dor*mancy + *-in*] : ABSCISIC ACID *herein*

double-blind \ˈ=ˌ=\ *adj* : of, relating to, or being an experiment or system of experimentation in which neither the subjects nor the experimenters know the makeup of the test and control groups during the actual course of the experimentation

doublet* *n* **1 a** : a pair of atomic, molecular, or nuclear quantum states that are usu. close together in energy and arise from two possible orientations of spin **b** : a pair of spectral frequencies of light arising from transitions to or from such quantum states **2** : a pair of otherwise similar elementary particles (as a proton and a neutron) with different charge

dove* *n* : one who takes a conciliatory attitude (as in a dispute) and advocates negotiations and compromise — compare HAWK *herein* — **dov-ish** \'dəvish\ *adj* — **dov-ish-ness** *n* -ES

downrange \ˈ=ˌ=\ *adv (or adj)* [³*down* + ¹*range*] : away from a launching site and along the course of a test range

downer* *n* : a depressant drug; *esp* : BARBITURATE

downplay \ˈ=ˌ=\ *vt* : to play down : DE-EMPHASIZE

dozen* *n* **dozens** *pl* : a game that consists of exchanging often obscene insults usu. about the members of the opponent's family — often used in the phrase *play the dozens*

draft* *vi* : to drive close behind another car while racing at high speed in order to take advantage of the reduced air pressure created by the leading car

drawdown* *n* : a lowering of the water level (as in a reservoir)

dream-scape \'drēmzˌkāp, -m,sk-\ *n* [¹*dream* + *-scape*] : a dreamlike usu. surrealistic scene ⟨seemed greener than he had remembered any jungle to be: a ~ out of neverland —Frank Yerby⟩; *also* : a painting of a dreamscape

drive-up \ˈ=ˌ=\ *adj* [*drive up*, v.] : designed to allow patrons or customers to be served while remaining in their automobiles

drop* *vt* : to take (a drug) through the mouth: SWALLOW

drop-in \'drä,pin\ *n* [fr. the verb phrase *drop in*] **1** : one who drops in : a casual visitor **2** : an informal social gathering at which guests are invited to drop in

drop out* *vi* : to withdraw from conventional society because of disenchantment with its values and mores

dropout* *n* : one who drops out from conventional society

drown-proof-ing \'draůnˈprüfiŋ\ *n* -S [*drown* + ²*proof* + *-ing*] : a technique for staying afloat in water for an extended period with minimum effort through the use of a person's natural buoyancy

drunk tank *n* : a large detention cell for arrested drunks

dual fund *n* : a closed-end investment company whose capitalization consists half of income shares entitled to the entire income of the company and half of capital shares entitled to all capital appreciation — called also *dual purpose fund*

duc-ti-bil-i-ty \ˌdəktəˈbiləd-ē\ *n* -ES [*ductible* + *-ity*] : DUCTILITY

dune buggy *n* : BEACH BUGGY

durable press *n* **1** : the process of treating a fabric with a chemical (as a resin) and heat for setting the shape and for aiding wrinkle resistance **2** : material treated by durable press **3** : the condition of material treated by durable press — **durable-press** *adj*

dyke *also* **dike** *n* [origin unknown] : LESBIAN; *esp* : one assuming an aggressively masculine role

dy-nap-o-lis \dīˈnapələs\ *n* -ES [NGk, fr. *dyna*mikos dynamic (fr. Gk, powerful) + *polis* city, fr. Gk — more at DYNAMIC, POLICE] : a city planned for orderly growth along a main traffic artery by means of self-contained communities

dys-ba-rism \'disbəˌrizəm\ *n* -S [*dys-* + *bar-* + *-ism*] : the complex of symptoms (as bends, headache, or mental disturbance) that accompanies exposure to excessively low or rapidly changing environmental air pressure

dys-to-pia \dis'tōpēə\ *n* -S [*dys-* + *-topia* (as in *eutopia*)] : an imaginary place which is depressingly wretched and whose people lead a fearful existence — **dystopian** *adj*

earthrise \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* [*earth* + *rise*] : the rising of the earth above the horizon of the moon as seen from the moon

eb-ul-lism \'ebəˌlizəm\ *n* -S [L *ebullire* to come bubbling out + E *-ism*] — more at EBULLIENT] : the formation of bubbles in body fluids under sharply reduced environmental pressure

ec-dy-sone \'ekdəˌsōn\ *n* -S [*ecdysis* + *hormone*] : an insect hormone affecting larval growth and molting

echo-virus \'ekō+\ *n* [enteric cytopathogenic *h*uman *o*rphan + *virus*] : any of a group of picornaviruses sometimes associated with respiratory ailments or meningitis

eco-geographic \ˌekō, ˌēkō+\ *or* **eco-geographical** *adj* [*ecological* + *geographic* or *geographical*] : of or relating to both ecological and geographical aspects of the environment — **eco-geographically** \" +\ *adv*

economy *adj* : designed to save the buyer money ⟨~ cars⟩

eco-sphere \'ekōˌsfi(ə)r, 'ēk-\ *n* [²*ec-* + *sphere*] : the parts of the universe habitable by living organisms; *esp* : BIOSPHERE 1 — **eco-spher-ic** \ˌekōˈsfirik, ˌēk-, -fer-\ *adj*

ec-to-crine \'ektəkrən; -ˌkrin, -rīn, -rēn\ *n* -S [*ect-* + *-crine* (as in *endocrine*)] : a metabolite produced by an organism of one kind and utilized by one of another kind

ec-to-hormone \ˌektə+\ *n* [*ect-* + *hormone*] : a substance (as a pheromone) given off by one organism that is capable of affecting the behavior of other organisms of the same species — **ec-to-hormonal** \"+\ *adj*

ecu-me-nop-o-lis \ˌekyməˈnäpələs, eˌkyüm-\ *n* -ES [NGk *oikoumenopolis*, fr. Gk *oikoumenē* world + *-polis* — more at ECUMENE] : a global network of urbanized communities held to be a possibility of the future

ed-it \'edət\ *n* -S [*edit*, vb.] : an instance of editing

EDP *abbr* electronic data processing

educational park *n* : a large centralized educational complex of elementary and secondary schools

educational television *n* **1** : PUBLIC TELEVISION *herein* **2** : television that provides instructional material esp. for students sometimes by closed circuit

EHV *abbr* extra high voltage

eightfold way *n* : a unified theoretical scheme for classifying the relationship among strongly interacting elementary particles on the basis of isospin and hypercharge

ekis-tics \əˈkistiks, ēˈk-\ *n pl but sing in constr* [NGk *oikistikē*, fr. fem. of *oikistikos* relating to settlement, fr. Gk, fr. *oikizein* to settle, colonize, fr. *oikos* house — more at VICINITY] : a science dealing with human settlements and drawing on the research and experience of the architect, the engineer, the city planner, and the social scientist — **ekis-tic** \-tik\ *adj* — **ekis-ti-cian** \əˌkistiˈshən, (ˌ)ēˌk-\ *n* -s

elec-tro-cor-ti-co-graph-ic \əˌlektrəˌkȯrd-əkōˈgrafik, ēˌl-\ *adj* [*electr-* + *cortico-* + *-graphic*] : of, relating to, or involving the use of an electrocorticogram — **elec-tro-cor-ti-co-graph-i-cal-ly** \-fək(ə)lē, -fēk-\ *adv* — **elec-tro-cor-ti-cog-ra-phy** \-dˌäˈgrəfē\ *n* -ES

elec-tro-fishing \əˌlektrō, ēˌl-+\ *n* [*electr-* + *fishing*] : the taking of fish by a system based on their strong galvanotactic attraction to a source of direct electric current

elec-tro-gas-dynamics \əˌlektrəˈgas, ēˌl-+\ *n pl but sing in constr* [*electr-* + *gas* + *dynamic* + *-s*] : a method of generating electrical energy that is based on the conversion of the kinetic energy of the flow of a high pressure combustion gas — **elec-tro-gas-dynamic** \"+\ *adj*

elec-tro-hydraulic \əˌlektrō, ēˌl-+\ *adj* [*electr-* + *hydraulic*] **1** : of, relating to, or involving a combination of electric and hydraulic mechanisms ⟨an ~ elevator⟩ **2** : involving or produced by the action of very brief but powerful pulse discharges of electricity under a liquid resulting in the generation of shock waves and highly reactive chemical species ⟨an ~ effect⟩ — **elec-tro-hydraulically** \"+\ *adv*

elec-tro-hydraulics \"+\ *n* [*electrohydraulic* + *-s*] : the production of shock waves by electrohydraulic means

electromagnetic interaction *n* : a fundamental interaction experienced by most elementary particles that is responsible for the emission and absorption of photons and for electric and magnetic forces

electronic music *n* : music that consists of sounds electronically captured or originated, taped, and played through a loudspeaker

electron spin resonance *n* : the magnetic resonance of electrons that are either free or bound in atoms

elec-tro-pho-rese \əˌlektrəfəˈrēs, ēˌl-, -ˈfräfəˌ-, -ēz\ *vt* -ED/-ING/-S [back-formation fr. *electrophoresis*] : to subject to electrophoresis

elec-tro-pho-ret-o-gram \əˈlektrəfəˈretəˌgram, ēˌl-\ *n* -S [*electrophoretic* + *-gram*] : a record that consists of the separated components of a mixture (as of proteins) produced by electrophoresis in a supporting medium (as filter paper)

elec-tro-sensitive \əˌlektrō, ēˌl-+\ *adj* [*electr-* + *sensitive*] : being or using sensitive paper on which an image is produced by the passage of electric current through it

elec-tro-sleep \əˈlektrōˌ ēˈl-+,\ *n* [*electr-* + *sleep*] : profound relaxation or a state of unconsciousness induced by the passage of a very low voltage electric current through the brain

electrostatic printing *n* : a process (as xerography) for printing or copying in which electrostatic forces are used to form the image (as with powder or ink) directly on a surface

elementary particle* *n* : OXYSOME *herein*

el-hi \'el,hī\ *adj* [*el*ementary school + *hi*gh school] : of, relating to, or designed for use in grades 1 through 12

en-cap-su-lant \ənˈkapsələnt, en- *also* -syə-\ *n* -s [*encapsulate* + *-ant*] : a material used for encapsulating

end-ar-te-rec-to-my \ˌen,därd-əˈrektəmē\ *n* -ES [*endarterium* + *-ectomy*] : surgical entry into an artery (as of the heart) for the removal of occluding material (as intimal plaques)

en-do-cy-to-sis \ˌendōˌsīˈtōsəs\ *n*, *pl* **endocyto-ses** \-ōˌsēz\ [NL, fr. *end-* + *cyt-* + *-osis*] : incorporation of substances into a cell by phagocytosis or pinocytosis — **en-do-cy-tic** \ˈ=ˌ=ˈsīd-ik\ *adj* — **en-do-cy-tot-ic** \ˈ=ˌ=ˌsīˌtädˈik\ *adj*

end-of-day glass \ˌ=ˌ=ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* [so called from its resemblance to objects made by glassblowers at the end of the day's work to use up various odds and ends of glass left over] : glass of various colors (as red, blue, green, and white) mixed together

endogenic* *adj* : ENDOGENOUS

en-do-phil-ic \ˌendəˈfilik\ *adj* [*end-* + *-philic*] : ecologically associated with man and his domestic environment — compare EXOPHILIC *herein* — **en-doph-i-ly** \enˈdäfəlē\ *n* -ES

endoplasmic reticulum *n* : a system of interconnected vesicles or minute canals that occupy much of the cytoplasm esp. of metabolically active cells — compare RIBOSOME *herein*

en-do-radiosonde \ˌendō+\ *n* [*end-* + *radiosonde*] : a subminiature electron device introduced into the body to gather physiological information

en-do-sul-fan \ˌendōˈsəlfən, -ˌfan\ *n* -S [perh. fr. *endrin* + *-o-* + *sulf-* + ³*-an*] : a brownish crystalline insecticide $C_9H_6Cl_6O_3S$ that is used in the control of numerous crop insects and some mites, is relatively nontoxic to bees and warm-blooded vertebrates, and is potentially destructive to cold-blooded vertebrates, (as fish)

endpoint** \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* [¹*end* + ¹*point*] : either of a pair of points that mark the limits of something (as a line segment or a sequence of values) or a point that marks the end of a ray

energetics* *n pl but sing in constr* : the total energy relations and transformations of a system (as a chemical reaction or an ecological community)

energizer* *n* : ANTIDEPRESSANT *herein*

energy budget *n* : an accounting of the income, use, and loss of energy in an ecosystem

en-tero-virus \ˌentərōˈ+\ *n* [NL, fr. *enter-* + *virus*] : any of a group of picornaviruses that typically occur in the intestinal tract but may be involved in respiratory ailments, meningitis, and neurological disorders — **en-tero-viral** \"+\ *adj*

en-ven-om-ation \ənˌvenəˈmāshən, enˌv-\ *n* -S [*envenom* + *-ation*] : an act or instance of impregnating with a venom (as of a snake or spider)

en-ven-om-iza-tion \-ˌmīˈzāshən\ *n* -S [*envenom* + *-ization*] : poisoning caused by a venomous bite or sting

environment* *n* : an artistic or theatrical work that involves or encompasses the spectator : an instance of environmental art or theater

environmental* *adj* : involving or encompassing the spectator rather than simply facing him ⟨~ art⟩ ⟨~ theater⟩

environmentalist* *n* : one concerned about the quality of the human environment; *specif* : a specialist in human ecology

epi-fauna \ˌepə, ˈepē+\ *n* [NL, fr. *epi-* + *fauna*] : benthic fauna living on the substrate and esp. on a hard sea floor — compare INFAUNA *herein* — **epi-faunal** \"+\ *adj*

episcopal vicar *n* : a bishop assigned to the pastoral supervision of a part of a Roman Catholic diocese

epi-some \ˈepəˌsōm\ *n* -S [*epi-* + ³*-some*] : a genetic determinant or group of determinants (as of a bacterium) capable of existing autonomously or attached to a chromosome — **epi-som-al** \ˌepəˈsōməl\ *adj* — **epi-so-mic** \-ōmik\ *adj*

EPN \ˌē(ˌ)pēˈen\ *n* -S [ethyl para-*n*itro-phenyl] : a miticide and insecticide used esp. on cotton and orchard crops that enhances the toxicity of malathion to vertebrates

equi-gravi-sphere \ˌēkwəˈgravəˌsfi(ə)r *sometimes* ˌek-\ *n* [*equi-* + *gravity* + *sphere*] : the area between the earth and a celestial body or between celestial bodies in which the gravitational influence of the bodies is equal

er-o-tol-o-gy \ˌerəˈtäləjē\ *n* -ES [Gk *erōt-*, *erōs* sexual love + *-logy* — more at EROS] : a description of lovemaking — **er-o-to-log-i-cal** \ˌerəd-ᵊlˈäjəkəl\ *adj*

er-y-thor-bate \ˌerəˈthȯrˌbāt\ *n* -S [*erythorbic acid* (prob. fr. *erythr*ose + *ascorbic acid*) + *-ate*] : a salt of an optical isomer ⟨**er-y-thor-bic acid** \-ˌthȯrbik-\⟩ of ascorbic acid that is used in various foods as an antioxidant

eryth-ro-poi-e-tin \əˌrithrəˈpȯiətᵊn\ *n* -S [*erythropoietic* + *-in*] : a hormonal substance that is prob. formed in the kidney and stimulates red blood cell formation

escalate* *vb* ~ *vi* : to increase in extent, volume, number,

amount, or scope : EXPAND ⟨any limited nuclear war would rapidly ~ into full-scale disaster —*Sat. Eve. Post*⟩ ~ *vt* : to increase the extent, volume, number, amount, or scope of

escalation* *n* : an increasing in extent, volume, number, amount, or scope — **es·ca·la·to·ry** \'eskələ,tōrē\ *adj*

escudo* *n* -s **1** : the basic monetary unit of Chile established in 1960 — see MONEY table *in the Dict* **2** : a note representing one escudo

establishment* *n, often cap* **1** : a group of social, economic, and political leaders who form a ruling class (as of a nation) ⟨by *them* he meant not the English, but the governing classes, the *Establishment* —A.J.P.Taylor⟩ **2** : a controlling group ⟨the Welsh literary *Establishment* . . . kept him out of everything —Keidrych Rhys⟩

es·tro·ge·nic·i·ty \ˌestrəjə'nisəd·ē\ *n* -ES [*estrogenic* + *-ity*] : capacity for estrogenic action or effect

eta particle *n* [¹*eta*] : an uncharged and spinless elementary particle with mass 1074 times the mass of an electron that decays rapidly into pions or gamma rays

etha·mi·van \e'thamə,van, ˌethə'mīvən\ *n* -s [*diethyl* + *amide* + *vanillic* acid] : an analeptic drug related to vanillic acid and used in treating barbiturate poisoning

eth·no·musicology \ˌeth(ˌ)nō+\ *n* [ISV *ethno-* + *musicology*] : a study of the music of non-European cultures — **eth·no·musicological** \"+\ *adj* — **eth·no·musicologist** \"+\ *n*

eth·no·science \"+\ *n* [*ethno-* + *science*] : the nature lore of primitive people

eth·o·sux·i·mide \ˌethōˈsəksəˌmīd\ *n* -s [*eth-* + *-suximide* (by shortening and alter. fr. *succinimide*)] : an antidepressant drug derived from succinic acid and used to relieve epilepsy

ETV *abbr* educational television *herein*

eu·phen·ics \yü'feniks, -nēks\ *n pl but sing in constr* [*eu-* + *phen-* (fr. *phenotype*) + *-ics;* after E *genotype: eugenics*] : a science that deals with the biological improvement of human beings after birth — **eu·phen·ic** *adj*

eu·ro·bond \'yůrō+\ *n* -s *usu cap* [*euro*dollar (herein) + *bond*] : a bond of a U.S. corporation that is sold outside the U.S. and that is denominated and paid for in dollars and yields interest in dollars

eu·ro·crat \'yůrəˌkrat\ *n* -s *usu cap* [ISV, fr. *Europe* + *-crat*] : a staff member of the administrative commission of the European Common Market

eu·ro·dollar \'yůrō+\ *n* -s *usu cap* [*Europe* + *dollar*] : a U.S. dollar held outside the U.S. and esp. in Europe

eu·ro·po·centric \yəˌrōpə+\ *adj, usu cap* [*Europe*, continent + E *-o-* + *-centric*] : centered on Europe and the Europeans — **eu·ro·po·centrism** \-ˈsen·trizəm\ *n, usu cap*

EVA \ˌē(ˌ)vē'ā\ *abbr* extravehicular activity

ex·ac·ta \ig'zaktə, eg-\ *n* -s [AmSp *quiniela exacta* exact quiniela] : PERFECTA *herein*

exchange force *n* : a force between two elementary particles (as a neutron and a proton) arising from the incessant interchange between them of other particles (as pions)

exo·biology \ˌek(ˌ)sō+\ *n* [*exo-* + *biology*] : extraterrestrial biology — **exobiological** \"+\ *adj* — **exo·biologist** \"+\ *n*

ex·o·cri·nol·o·gy \ˌeksəkrə'näləjē, -ˌkrī-, -ˌkrē-\ *n* -ES [*exocrine* + *-o-* + *-logy*] : the study of external secretions (as pheromones) that serve an integrative function

exo·nu·mia \ˌeksə'n(y)ümēə\ *n pl* [NL, fr. *exo-* + E *numismatic* + NL *-ia* ³-ia] : numismatic items (as tokens, medals, or scrip) other than coins and paper money

exo·nu·mist \-məst, '=ˌ=\ *n* -s [*exonumia* + *-ist*] : a specialist in exonumia

exo·phil·ic \ˌeksəˈfilik\ *adj* [*exo-* + *-philic*] : ecologically independent of man and his domestic environment — compare ENDOPHILIC *herein* — **ex·oph·i·ly** \ek'säfələ\ *n* -ES

exotic* *adj* : of or relating to striptease ⟨~ dancing⟩

exotic* *n* -s : a dancer who performs a striptease

explosive* *adj* : done by the force of a controlled explosion ⟨~ welding⟩ ⟨~ forming of metal parts⟩

ex·po \'ek(ˌ)spō\ *n* -s [by shortening] : EXPOSITION 3c

ex·tra·chromosomal \ˌekstrō+\ *adj* [*extra-* + *chromosomal*] : situated or controlled by factors outside the chromosomes

ex·tra·corporeal \ˌekstrə+\ *adj* [*extra-* + *corporeal*] : occurring or based outside the living body — **ex·tra·corporeally** \"+\ *adv*

ex·tra·solar \"+\ *adj* [*extra-* + *solar*] : originating or existing outside the solar system ⟨~ life⟩

ex·tra·vehicular \"+\ *adj* [*extra-* + *vehicular*] **1** : taking place outside a vehicle (as a spacecraft) ⟨~ activity⟩ **2** : relating to extravehicular activity ⟨an ~ assignment⟩

¹ex·trem·al \ik'strēməl, ek'stə-\ *n* -s [²*extreme* + *-al*, adj. suffix] : any curve that in the calculus of variations has the property of having the first variation of the integral of the given function over it equal to zero

²extremal \"\ *adj* : of, relating to, or being an extreme or an extremal

eyeliner \'ˌī=ər\ *n* [¹*eye* + ¹*liner*] : makeup used to emphasize the contour of the eyes

f* *abbr* femto- *herein*

fab·ri·ca·ble \'fabrəkəbəl\ *adj* [LL *fabricabilis*, fr. L *fabricari* to fabricate — more at FABRIC] : capable of being shaped ⟨~ alloys⟩ — **fab·ri·ca·bil·i·ty** \ˌfabrəkəˈbilədē\ *n* -ES

face fly *n* : a European fly (*Musca autumnalis*) similar to the housefly that is widely established in No. America and causes great distress to livestock by clustering about the face

face–off* *n* : CONFRONTATION

fading* *n* : the gradual withdrawal of hints or cues to the student in programmed instruction — called also *vanishing*

fag·got·ry \'fagə·trē\ *n* -ES [*faggot* + *-ry*] : HOMOSEXUALITY

fail* *n* : a failure (as by a security dealer) to deliver or receive securities within a prescribed period after a purchase or sale

fail–safe \'ˌā=ˌ=\ *adj* [*fail* + *safe*, adj.] **1** : incorporating some feature for automatically counteracting the effect of an anticipated possible source of failure **2** : being or relating to a safeguard that prevents continuing on a bombing mission according to preconceived plan

fake book *n* [³*fake* (to improvise) + *book*] : a book that contains the melody lines of popular copyrighted songs without accompanying harmonies and that is published without the permission of the copyright owners

fallout* *n* : an incidental result or product ⟨the war . . . produced its own literary ~ — a profusion of books —*Newsweek*⟩

family* *n* : a group constituting a unit of a crime syndicate (as the Mafia) and engaging in underworld activities within a defined geographical area

family planning *n* : planning of the number and spacing of one's children by effective methods of birth control

family room *n* : a large room designed as a recreation center for members of a family

fan–jet \'ˌa=ˌ=\ *n* [¹*fan* + *jet*] **1** : a jet engine having a ducted fan in its forward end that draws in extra air whose compression and expulsion provide extra thrust **2** : an airplane powered by a fan-jet engine

fantasy* *vt* : to imagine a sexually stimulating situation esp. as an adjunct to autoerotism

faraday rotation *n, usu cap F* **1** : optical rotation of a beam of polarized light due to the Faraday effect **2** : rotation of a beam of polarized microwaves traversing an isotropic medium along the lines of force of a magnetic field

far–out \'ˌ=ˈ=\ *adj* [*far out* (adverbial phrase), fr. ME *fer oute*, fr. *fer* far + *out*, *oute* out] : marked by a considerable departure from the conventional or traditional : EXTREME ⟨a small, *far-out*, but fervent religious sect —Joseph Alsop⟩ — **far–out·ness** \(')ˌ=ˈnəs\ *n*

far–red \'ˌ=ˈ=\ *adj* [²*far* + *red*] **1** : lying in the part of the infrared spectrum farthest from the red — used of radiations with wavelengths between 30 and about 1000 microns **2** : lying in the part of the infrared spectrum nearest to the red — used of radiations with wavelengths starting at about .8 micron

fastback *n* [¹*fast* + ¹*back*] **1** \'ˌ=ˈ=\ : a back roof on a closed passenger automobile sloping in a long unbroken line toward the rear bumper **2** \'ˌ=ˌ=\ : an automobile having a fastback

fa·ve·la *also* **fa·vel·la** \fə'velə\ *n* -S [Pg *favela*] : a settlement of jerry-built shacks lying on the outskirts of a Brazilian city

fax \'faks\ *n* -ES [by shortening and alter.] : FACSIMILE 2

FDG* *abbr* fleur de coin *herein*

federal funds *n pl* : uncommitted reserves of a Federal Reserve member bank available for interbank loans esp. to enable other banks to maintain their legally required reserves

fem·to- \'fem(p)(ˌ)tō\ *comb form* [ISV, fr. Dan or Norw *femten* fifteen (fr. ON *fimmtān*) + *-o-* — more at FIFTEEN] : one quadrillionth (10⁻¹⁵) part of ⟨*femto*ampere⟩

fer·mi \'fer(ˌ)mē\ *n* -S [after Enrico *Fermi* †1954 Ital. physicist] : a unit of length equal to 10^{-13} centimeter

fer·re·dox·in \ˌferə'däksən\ *n* -S [L *ferrum* iron + E *redox* + *-in* — more at FARRIER] : an iron-containing plant protein that functions in intercellular electron transport

fertility pill *n* : a pill that tends to bring about the most fertile period of the female at an exact time and thereby enhances the effectiveness of the rhythm method of birth control

fetal position *n* : a resting position with body curved, legs bent and drawn toward the chest, head bowed forward, and arms tucked in in the manner of the fetus in the womb

fiberfill \'ˌ=ˌ=\ *n* [*fiber* + *fill*] : man-made fibers (as of polyester) used as a filling material (as for cushions)

fiber optic *n* : a very thin transparent homogenous fiber (as of plastic) that is enclosed by material of lower refractive index and transmits light throughout its length by internal refractions; *also* : a bundle of such fibers used in an instrument for bending light or seeing around corners

fi·bo·nac·ci number \ˌfēbəˌnächē-\ *n, usu cap F* [after Leonardo *Fibonacci* (Leonardo Pisano) †*ab* 1250 Ital. mathematician] : a number in the unending series 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, . . . of which the first two terms are 0 and 1 and each succeeding term is the sum of the two immediately preceding

fi·bro·calcific \ˌfī(ˌ)brō+\ *adj* [*fibr-* + *calcific*] : relating to or involving both fibrotic and calcific changes ⟨~ lesions⟩

fiche \'fēsh\ *n* -s [by shortening] : MICROFICHE

fiddle* *n* [Brit. slang *fiddle* to cheat, fr. ²*fiddle*] *Brit* : SWINDLE

fi·do \'fīd(ˌ)ō\ *n* -s [*f*reaks + *i*rregulars + *d*efects + *o*ddities] : a coin having a minting error

fiduciary* *adj* : being a mark or set of marks in the reticle of an optical instrument used as a point of reference or for a measure

field* *n* : a particular area (as a column on a punched card) in which the same type of information is regularly recorded

field* *vt* : to give an impromptu answer or solution to ⟨~*ed* the questions with ease⟩

field ion microscope *n* : a high-magnification microscope in which an image of the atoms of a metal surface is formed on a fluorescent screen by means of usu. helium ions formed in a high-voltage electric field

filmcard \'ˌ=ˌ\ *n* [*film* + *card*] : MICROFICHE

film·og·ra·phy \fil'mägrəfē\ *n* -ES [*film* + *-o-* + *-graphy*] : a list of motion pictures featuring the work of a prominent film figure (as an actor) or relating to a particular topic

filmsetting \'ˌ=ˌ=ˌ=\ *n* [*film* + *setting*] : PHOTOCOMPOSITION — **filmset** \'ˌ=ˌ=\ *adj* — **filmset** *vt* — **filmsetter** \'ˌ=ˌ=ˌ=\ *n*

finance company* *n* : a company that specializes in making small loans usu. to individuals

financial service *n* : an organization that studies the business situation and security market and makes investment recommendations usu. in a regularly issued publication

fink* *n* : one who is disapproved of or is held in contempt

fink out *vi* **1** : to fail miserably **2** : to back out : COP OUT ⟨others . . . *finked out* in the fat of middle-age —Seymour Krim⟩

fireflood \'ˌ=ˌ=\ *or* **firefl**ooding \'ˌ=ˌ=ˌ=\ *n* [*fire* + ¹*flood* or *flooding*] : the process of injecting compressed air into a petroleum reservoir and burning some of the oil so as to drive the rest of the oil into producing wells

fish–eye \'ˌ=ˌ=\ *adj* [so called fr. the resemblance of the lens to the protruding eye of a fish] : being, having, or produced by a wide-angle photographic lens that has a highly curved protruding front, that covers an angle of about 180 degrees, and that gives a circular image ⟨a ~ view⟩ ⟨a ~ camera⟩

fish protein concentrate *n* : FISH FLOUR

fixed–point \'ˌ=ˈ=\ *adj* : involving or being a mathematical notation (as in a decimal system) in which the point separating whole numbers and fractions is fixed

flakeboard \'ˌ=ˌ=\ *n* [*flake* + *board*] : a composition board made of flakes of wood bonded with synthetic resin

flanker back *n* : a football back who on offense lines up on the flank slightly behind the line of scrimmage

flashcube \'ˌ=ˌ=\ *n* [²*flash* + *cube*] : a cubical device that incorporates four flashbulbs, is usu. attached to a camera, and can be turned for taking four pictures in rapid succession

flashed glass *n* : glass in which a very thin layer of colored glass or of a metallic oxide is flashed to clear glass

flash–forward \'ˌ=ˌ=ˌ=\ *n* -S [*flash* (as in ¹*flashback*) + *forward*, adv.] : a literary or theatrical technique used esp. in motion pictures and television that involves interruption of the chronological sequence of events by interjection of events or scenes of future occurrence; *also* : an instance of a flash-forward

fleur de coin \ˌflərdəˈkwaⁿ\ *adj* [F *à fleur de coin*, lit., with the bloom of the die] : being in the preserved mint condition

flex·a·gon \'fleksəˌgän\ *n* -S [¹*flex* + *-agon* (as in *hexagon*)] : a folded paper figure that can be flexed into numerous arrangements of its faces

flight bag *n* **1** : a traveling bag usu. with zippered outside compartments for use esp. in air travel; *esp* : one that fits under an airplane seat **2** : a small thin lightweight canvas satchel decorated with the name of an airline

flip* *vi* **1** : to lose self-control ⟨when he ~*s* it takes three men to hold him —Eddie Krell⟩ **2** : to become extremely enthusiastic

flip side *n* [¹*flip* (to turn over)] : the reverse and usu. less popular side of a phonograph record

floating–point \'ˌ=ˈ=\ *adj* [²*floating* + *point*] : involving or being a mathematical notation in which a quantity is denoted by one number multiplied by a power of the number base ⟨the fixed-point value 99.9 could be expressed in a *floating-point* system as .999 × 10²⟩

flo·ka·ti \flō'kätē\ *n, pl* **flokati** *or* **floka·tes** \-ˌtās\ [NGk *phlokatē*, fr. *phloko* strand of wool, prob. fr. G *flocke* flock of wool (fr. MHG *vlocke*) — more at FLOCK] : a hand-woven Greek rug with a thick shaggy pile

floor partner *n* : a member of a brokerage firm who owns a seat on an exchange and acts as floor broker for his firm

flower bug *n* : any of various small mostly black-and-white predaceous bugs (family Anthocoridae) that frequent flowers and feed on pest insects (as aphids and thrips)

flower child *n* : a hippie who indicates his belief in love, beauty, and peace by wearing or displaying flowers

flower people *n pl* : FLOWER CHILDREN

flu·er·ic \(')flü'erik\ *adj* [irreg. fr. L *fluere* to flow + E *-ic* — more at FLUID] : FLUIDIC *herein*

flu·er·ics \flü'eriks\ *n pl but usu sing in constr* [*flueric* (herein) + *-s*] : FLUIDICS *herein*

fluidic* *adj* : of, relating to, or being a device (as an amplifier or control) that depends for operation on the pressures and flows of a fluid in precisely shaped channels — **fluidic** *n* -S

flu·id·ics \flü'idiks\ *n pl but usu sing in constr* [²*fluid* + *-ics*] : the technology of fluidic devices

flu·id·on·ics \ˌflüəˈdäniks\ *n pl but usu sing in constr* [²*fluid* + *-onics* (as in *electronics*)] : FLUIDICS *herein*

flu·o·ri·diz·er \'flůrəˌdīzə(r), -lōr-, -lȯr-\ *n* -S [*fluoridize* + *-er*] **1** : one that fluoridizes **2** : a fluorine-containing water and oil repellent finish for textiles

flu·o·ro·uracil \" +\ *n* [*fluor-* + *uracil*] : a fluorine-containing pyrimidine base used to treat some kinds of cancer

flying crane *n* : a helicopter equipped with a crane and used esp. for lifting and transporting heavy cargoes

FOBS *abbr* fractional orbital bombardment system *herein*

foggy bottom *n, usu cap F & B* [fr. *Foggy Bottom*, section of Washington, D.C., in which the offices of the Department of State are located] : the U.S. Department of State

foil* *n* : HYDROFOIL

folk mass *n* : a mass in which traditional liturgical music is replaced by folk music

folk–rock \'ˌ=ˌ=\ *n* : folk songs sung to a rock 'n' roll background — **folk–rock** *adj* — **folk–rock·er** \'ˌ=ˌ=ə(r)\ *n*

fondue fork *n* : a long slender usu. 2-tined fork used in eating or cooking fondue

food stamp *n* : a government-issued stamp that is sold or given to families on welfare and is redeemable for a specific type or amount of food

footpad* *n* : a flattish foot on the leg of a spacecraft for distributing weight to minimize sinking into a surface

format *vt* **formatted; formatted; formatting; formats** [*format*, n.] : to produce (as a book, printed matter, or data) in a particular form (as print) or style

formula *adj* [*formula*, n.] *of a racing car* : conforming to prescribed specifications of size, weight, and engine displacement and usu. having a long narrow body with a single seat

formula investing *n* : investing according to a plan (**formula plan**) under which more funds are invested in equity securities when the market is low and more are put into fixed-income securities when the market advances

for·tran \'fȯr·ˌtran\ *n* -S *usu cap F or all cap* [*formula translation*] : an algebraic and logical language for programming a computer

fortune cookie *n* : a thin folded cookie containing a slip of paper on which is printed a fortune, proverb, or humorous statement

found object *n* [trans. of F *objet trouvé*] : a natural or discarded object (as a piece of driftwood or junk) found by chance and held to have aesthetic value esp. through the working of natural forces on it

found poem *n* : a poem consisting of words found in a nonpoetic context (as a telephone directory) and usu. rearranged by the poet into poetic form

FPC* *abbr* fish protein concentrate *herein*

fractional orbital bombardment system *n* : a system for delivering a nuclear warhead from orbit by slowing it down by a retrorocket before completion of an orbit

frame* *n* : a minimal unit of instruction or stimulus in a programmed instruction routine : a unit of programmed instruction calling for a response by the student

fran·chi·see \ˌfranchə'zē, -ˌchī'-, -raan- *sometimes* -ˌsē\ *n* -S [¹*franchise* + *-ee*] : one who is granted a franchise to operate a unit in a chain of business establishments

fran·co–american \'fraŋ(ˌ)kō+\ *n, cap F&A* [*Franco-* + *American*] : an American of French or esp. French-Canadian descent — **franco–american** *adj, usu cap F&A*

fran·co·phone \'fraŋkəˌfōn\ *adj, often cap* [F, fr. *franco-* Franco- + Gk *phōnē* voice, speech — more at BAN] : consisting of or belonging to a French-speaking population

fran·glais \frä[n]'glā, -ä[ŋ]'g-\ *n, usu cap* [F, blend of *français* French and *anglais* English] : French marked by a considerable number of borrowings from English

freak* *n* **1** : ENTHUSIAST **2** : one who uses drugs

freak out *vb* [*freak*, n. (herein) + *out*, adv.] *vi* **1** : to withdraw from reality and society esp. by taking drugs **2** : to experience nightmarish hallucinations as a result of taking drugs : have a bad trip **3** : to behave irrationally or unconventionally under or as if under the influence of drugs ~ *vt* **1** : to put under the influence of a psychedelic drug **2** : to put into a state of intense excitement ⟨what he saw *freaked* him *out* so much that he still gets shaken when he remembers it —*Berkeley Barb*⟩

freak–out \'ˌ=ˌ=\ *n* [*freak out* (herein)] **1** : a withdrawal from reality esp. by means of drugs **2 a** : a drug-induced state of mind characterized by terrifying hallucinations : a bad trip **b** : an irrational act by one that freaks out **3** : a gathering of hippies **4** : one who freaks out

free–associate \ˌ=ə'ˌ=ˌ=\ *vi* [back-formation fr. *free association*] : to engage in free association

free·bie *or* **free·bee** \'frēbē, -bi\ *n* -S [by alter. fr. obs. slang *freeby* gratis, fr. *free* + *-by*, of unknown origin] : something (as a theater ticket) given or received without charge

freedom ride *n, often cap F&R* : a ride made by civil rights workers through states of the southern U.S. to ascertain whether public facilities (as bus terminals) are desegregated — **freedom rider** *n, often cap F&R*

free safety *n* : a safety man in football who has no specific pass receiver to guard in a man-to-man defense and who usu. helps wherever needed on defense

free university *n* : an unaccredited autonomous free institution established within a university by students to present and discuss subjects not usu. dealt with in the academic curriculum

frog* *n* : a small holder with perforations or spikes that is placed in a bowl or vase to keep cut flowers in position

front–end load \'ˌ=ˌ=\ *n* [³*front* + ¹*end* + ¹*load*] : the part of the total load taken out of early payments under a contract plan for the periodic purchase of investment-company shares

fron·to·nis \'frənˌtänəs, (')frän-\ *n* [AmerSp, blend of Sp *frontón* pelota court and *tenis* tennis, fr. E *tennis* — more at FRONTON] : a game of Mexican origin played with rackets and a rubber ball on a 3-walled court

frosting* *n* : the lightening (as by chemicals) of small strands of hair throughout the entire head to produce a two-tone effect — compare STREAKING *herein*

fruit machine *n* [fr. the use of pictures of various fruits as symbols to be matched] *Brit* : SLOT MACHINE 2

fuel cell *n* : a device that converts the chemical energy of a fuel (as hydrogen) directly into electrical energy continuously

funk* *n* : funky music

funky* *adj* -ER/-EST : having an earthy unsophisticated style and feeling; *specif* : having the style and feeling of early blues

fu·tu·rol·o·gy \ˌfyüchəˈräləjē\ *n* [*future* + *-o-* + *-logy*] : a study that deals with future possibilities based on current trends — **fu·tu·rol·o·gist** \-jəst\ *n* -S

g* *abbr, cap* giga-

ga·ga·ku \gäˈgä(ˌ)kü\ *n, often cap* [Jap, fr. *ga* elegance + *gaku* music] : the ancient court music of Japan

ga·le·ro \gəˈle(ə)rˌ(ˌ)ō\ *n* -S [It, fr. L *galerus, galera* cap of skin worn by certain flamens — more at GALERA] : the flat-crowned wide-brimmed tasseled red hat formerly worn by Roman Catholic cardinals — called also *cardinal's hat*

gallium arsenide *n* : a synthetic compound GaAs used esp. as a semiconducting material

gallows humor *n* : humor that makes fun of a very serious or terrifying situation

game ball* *n* : a ball (as a football) presented by the members of a team to a player or coach in recognition of his contribution to the team's victory

gamma decay *n* **1** : a radioactive transformation of an atomic nucleus in which the nucleus loses energy by emitting a gamma ray without change of mass number or atomic number **2** : the decay of an unstable elementary particle in which one or more photons are emitted

gamma ray* *n* : a high-energy photon

gang bang *n* -S : copulation by several persons with the same passive partner — **gang–bang** *vb*

gan·gle \'gaŋgəl, -aiŋ-\ *vi* -ED/-ING/-S [back-formation fr. *gangling*] : to move in an awkward ungraceful manner — **gangle** *n*

gang·sa \'gäŋ(ˌ)sä\ *n* -S [Indonesian *gampang gangsa*, fr. *gampang* musical instrument consisting of bars struck by hammers + *gangsa* brass] : a Balinese metallophone with bamboo resonators

gantry* *n* : a movable scaffold with platforms at different levels for use in erecting and servicing rockets before launching

gar·con·nière \ˌgärsᵊnˈyer(ə)r\ *n* -S [F, fr. *garçon* boy, bachelor — more at GARÇON] : a bachelor apartment

gar·vey·ism \'gärvēˌizəm\ *n* -S *usu cap* [Marcus *Garvey* †1940 Jamaican Black Nationalist + E *-ism*] : a 20th century racial and political doctrine advocating black separation and the formation of self-governing black nations in Africa — **garvey·ite** \-ēˌīt\ *n* -S *usu cap*

gas chromatography *n* : chromatographic analysis in which the sample is carried in vapor form through a column of absorbing material usu. along with a carrier gas (as nitrogen or helium) — **gas chromatographic** *adj*

gas·dy·namics \ˌ=(ˌ)dīˈ=ˌ=s\ *n pl but sing in constr* [*gas* + *dynamics*] : a branch of dynamics that deals with gaseous fluids including products of combustion and plasmas — **gas·dynamic** *adj* — **gasdynamicist** *n* -S

gaudy ironstone *n* : a polychrome-decorated mid-19th century English ironstone ware

gaussian integer *n, usu cap G* [Karl Friedrich *Gauss* †1855 Ger. mathematician + E *-ian*] : a complex number $a + bi$ where a and b are integers and $i = \sqrt{-1}$

gaussian plane *n, usu cap G* : COMPLEX PLANE

GB \(')jē'bē\ *n* -S [code name] : SARIN

gene pool *n* : the whole body of different genes available for exchange and recombination within a population

general obligation bond *n* : a municipal of which payment of interest and principal is backed by the taxing power and credit of the issuing governmental unit

general term *n* : a mathematical term composed of constants

and variables that when specific values are substituted for the variables yields the successive terms of a series

generative grammar *n* **1 :** a description in the form of an ordered set of rules for producing the grammatical sentences of a language **2 :** TRANSFORMATIONAL GRAMMAR

generic* *n* **:** a generic drug

genetic code *n* **:** the self-reproducing record of the specific protein pattern of an organism which is apparently stored in triplets of sequential nucleotides in the nuclear deoxyribonucleic acid and which is transmitted through a series of ribonucleic acids to the cytoplasmic seats of protein syntheses

genetic engineering *n* **:** alteration of hereditary defects by intervention in gene-controlled bodily processes and when practicable by directed changes in the genetic material

geno·plasm \'jēnə,plazəm, -en-\ *n* [*²gen-* + *-plasm*] **:** GERMPLASM

geo·corona \ˌjē+\ *n* [*ge-* + *corona*] **:** the outermost part of the earth's atmosphere consisting primarily of hydrogen

geology* *n* **:** a study of the solid matter of a celestial body

geo·probe \'jēə,prōb\ *n* [*ge-* + *probe*] **:** a rocket for exploration near the earth but at distances of more than 4000 miles

geo·stationary \ˌjē(ˌ)ō+\ *adj* [*ge-* + *stationary*] **:** of, relating to, or being an artificial satellite that travels from west to east at an altitude of over 22,000 miles above the equator and at the same speed as that of the earth's rotation so that the satellite seems to remain in the same place

geo·synchronous \"+s\ *adj* [*ge-* + *synchronous*] **:** GEOSTATIONARY *herein*

give-up* *n* [*give up*, vb.; fr. the giving up by the first broker of part of the commission to the second] **1 :** a security or commodity market order which one broker executes for a client of a second broker and the commission for which is shared by the two brokers **2 :** the part of a commission due a broker from a major client (as a mutual fund) that he is directed by the client to turn over to another broker who has provided special services (as research or sale of fund shares) to the client

glitch \'glich\ *n* -ES [prob. fr. G *glitschen* to slip, slide, fr. MHG intensive of *glīten* to glide, fr. OHG *glītan* — more at GLIDE] **1 :** an unwanted brief surge of electric power **:** a false or spurious electronic signal **2 :** MALFUNCTION ⟨a ~ in the fuel cell of a spacecraft⟩ **3 :** MISHAP; *also* **:** a minor technical problem

glu·co·neo·gen·ic \ˌglükō,nēə'jenik\ *adj* [*gluconeogenesis* + *-ic*] **:** GLUCONEOGENETIC

glu·teth·i·mide \ˌglü'tethə,mīd, -,mād\ *n* [*glutaryl* + *eth-* + *imide*] **:** a sedative-hypnotic drug chemically and physiologically related to phenobarbital

glyph* *n* [short for *hieroglyph*] **:** a symbol (as a curved arrow on a road sign) that carries information nonverbally

gno·to·biology \ˌnōd·ə+\ *n* [Gk *gnōtos* known + E *biology*] **:** GNOTOBIOTICS *herein* — **gno·to·biologist** \"+\ *n*

gno·to·bi·ot·ic \ˌnōd·əbī'ädik *also* -bē'ä-\ *adj* [Gk *gnōtos* known (fr. *gignōskein* to know) + *biotē* life, way of life + E *-ic* — more at KNOW, BIOTA] **:** of, relating to, living in, or being an environment containing one or a known few kinds of organisms; *also* **:** AXENIC — **gno·to·bi·ote** \ˌnōd·ə'bī,ōt\ *n* -S — **gno·to·bi·ot·i·cal·ly** \ˌnōd·əbī'ädəkə(ə)lē *also* -bē'ä-\ *adv*

gno·to·bi·ot·ics \ˌnōd·əbī'ädiks\ *n pl but sing in constr* [*gnotobiotic* (herein) + *-s*] **:** the raising and study of animals under gnotobiotic conditions

go* *vb* — **go public** *of a close corporation* **:** to offer stock for sale to the general public

go *adj* ['gō] **:** functioning properly **:** being in good and ready condition ⟨declared all systems ~⟩

go-go \'gō-(ˌ)gō\ *adj* [by shortening] **1 :** A-GO-GO *herein* ⟨*go-go* dancers⟩ **2 :** not conservative **:** UNRESTRAINED ⟨play *go-go* baseball⟩ **3 :** using such tools of speculation as leverage and short selling **:** SPECULATIVE ⟨a *go-go* mutual fund⟩

gold·en-ag·er \ˌgōldə'nājə(r)\ *n* -S [*Golden Age clubs*, organizations for recreational activities of the elderly + E *-er*] **:** an elderly person; *esp* **:** one who has retired

gold point* *n* **:** a fixed point on the international temperature scale equal to the melting point of gold or 1063°C

golf cart *n* **1 :** a small cart for wheeling a golf bag around a golf course **2 :** a motorized cart for carrying a golfer and his equipment over a golf course

gondola* *n* **:** an enclosed car suspended from a cable and used for transporting passengers; *esp* **:** one used as a ski lift

go-no-go \'gō'nō,gō\ *adj* [*¹go* + *¹no* + *¹go*] **1 :** being or relating to a required decision to continue or stop a course of action **2 :** being or relating to a point at which a go-no-go decision must be made

goof-off \'ˌf,f\ *n* [fr. the verb phrase *goof off*] **:** one who evades work or responsibility

goofy-foot \'güfē,fůt\ *or* **goofy-foot·er** \-ůd·ə(r)\ *n, pl* **goofy-foots** *or* **goofy-footers :** a surfer who rides a surfboard with the right foot forward

gox *abbr* gaseous oxygen

grab* *vt* **:** to forcefully engage the attention of ⟨the technique of *grabbing* an audience —Pauline Kael⟩

grade point *n* **:** a numerical value assigned to each academic letter grade (as F=0, D=1, C=2, B=3, A=4) that is multiplied by the number of credits for the course

grade-point average *n* **:** the average obtained by dividing the total number of grade points by the total number of credits earned

gram·mat·i·cal·i·ty \grə,mad·ə'kaləd·ē\ *n* -ES [*grammatical* + *-ity*] **:** the quality or state of being grammatical

gram·my \'gramē, -mi\ *n, pl* **grammys** *or* **grammies** *usu cap* [*gram*ophone + *-my* (as in *Emmy*)] **:** any of several gold-plated statuettes awarded annually by a professional organization for notable achievement in phonograph recording

granny glasses *n pl* **:** spectacles with usu. small oval, round, or square lenses and metal frames

grants·man·ship \'gran(t)smən,ship, -aa-,ai-,-á-\ *n* -S [*grants* + *-manship* (herein)] **:** the art of obtaining grants

graphic* *n* **:** a graphic representation displayed by a computer (as on a cathode-ray tube); *also* **:** the process whereby a computer displays such graphics and an operator can manipulate them (as with a light pen) — often used in pl.

grass* *n* **:** MARIJUANA

gravi·sphere \'gravə,sfi(ə)r\ *n* [*gravity* + *sphere*] **:** the sphere of space in which the gravitational influence of a particular celestial body is predominant

gravitational collapse *n* **:** the tendency of particles to move rapidly toward a common center of gravity that results in the formation of stars, star clusters, and galaxies from the dilute gas of interstellar space

gravitational interaction *n* **:** the weakest interaction of the four fundamental interactions in nature that is hypothesized to act between elementary particles but that has been observed only on a larger scale — compare ELECTROMAGNETIC INTERACTION, STRONG INTERACTION, WEAK INTERACTION *herein*

gravitational wave *n* **:** a hypothetical wave which travels at the speed of light and by means of which gravitational attraction effect is propagated

grav·i·ton \'gravə,tän\ *n* -S [ISV *gravity* + *²-on*] **:** a hypothetical particle with zero charge and rest mass that is held to be the quantum of the gravitational field

gravity wave* *n* **:** GRAVITATIONAL WAVE *herein*

green beret *n, usu cap G&B* [so called fr. the green beret worn as part of his uniform] **:** a member of the U.S. Army Special Forces

greenhouse effect *n* **:** the warming of the lower layers of the atmosphere near the surface of the earth caused by a complicated process that starts with solar radiation and involves selective transmission, absorption, and emission of infrared radiation by the water vapor and carbon dioxide in the air

grem·mie *also* **grem·my** \'gremē, -mi\ *n, pl* **gremmies** [*grem*lin + *-ie*] **:** a young or inexperienced surfer; *esp* **:** one whose behavior is objectionable — called also *gremlin*

groove* *vb* [fr. the phrase *in the groove*] *vt* **1 :** to enjoy appreciatively ⟨~s exciting experiences⟩ **2 :** to excite pleasurably ⟨*grooving* their minds with cannabis —Stephen Nemo⟩ ~ *vi* **1 :** to enjoy oneself intensely **:** experience keen pleasure ⟨self-perception that informs you how and when to ~ in your own way —Al Calloway⟩ **2 :** to interact harmoniously ⟨contemporary minds and rock ~ together —Benjamin De Mott⟩

ground-effect machine *n* [so called fr. the support provided by the cushion of air as if the vehicle rode on the ground] **:** a vehicle for traveling over land or water a short distance above the surface supported on a cushion of air produced by downwardly directed fans

group* *n* **:** a mathematical system consisting of a set of elements and an operation such that the operation on any pair of elements yields an element of the set, the operation is associative, and for each element there is an inverse element such that the operation on the element and its inverse yields the identity element

group·ie \'grüpē, -pi\ *n* -S [*¹group* + *-ie*] **:** a girl admirer of a rock group; *esp* **:** one who follows the group on tour

group theory *n* **:** a branch of mathematics dealing with the properties of groups

growth* *n* **:** anticipated progressive growth in capital value and income ⟨younger investors may prefer ~ to immediate income⟩

growth company *n* **:** a company that grows at a greater rate than the economy as a whole

gua·neth·i·dine \gwä'nethə,dēn, -ədən\ *n* -S [*guanidine* + *eth-*] **:** a drug used esp. in treating severe high blood pressure

gun* *n* **:** a heavy surfboard that is usu. longer than a Malibu board, has a round nose and a tapered tail, and is usu. used in surf over 15 feet in height — called also *big gun*

gunn effect \'gən-\ *n, usu cap G* [after J. B. *Gunn* b1928 Brit. physicist] **:** the production of rapid fluctuations of current when the voltage applied to a semiconductor device exceeds a critical value with the result that microwave power is generated

gunship \'ˌ,ˌ\ *n* **:** an armed helicopter used esp. for protecting troop transport helicopters against ground fire

gus·sy up \ˌgəsē'əp\ *vt* [origin unknown] **:** to dress up

gut *adj* [*¹gut*] **1 :** arising from one's inmost self **:** VISCERAL ⟨a ~ reaction to the misery he has seen —J.A.Lukas⟩ **2 :** having strong impact or immediate relevance ⟨~ issues⟩

gyp·lure \'jip,lů(ə)r\ *n* [*gypsy* + *lure*] **:** a synthetic sex attractant used in trapping male gypsy moths

gy·ro·cop·ter \'jīrə,käptə(r\ *n* -S [*autogyro* + *helicopter*] **:** a usu. one-passenger rotary-wing aircraft that is driven forward by a conventional propeller

gy·ro·dynamics \ˌjī(ˌ)rō+\ *n pl but sing in constr* [*gyr-* + *dynamics*] **:** a branch of dynamics that deals with rotating bodies and esp. gyroscopes

hacking pocket *n* [so called fr. its use on hacking coats] **:** a slanted coat pocket usu. with a flap

ha·dal \'hād³l\ *adj* [F, fr. *Hadès* Hades + *-al*] **:** of, relating to, or being the parts of the ocean below 6000 meters

had·ron \'ha,drän\ *n* -S [ISV *hadr-* + *²-on*] **:** any one of a class of elementary particles consisting of the pion and all heavier particles that takes part in the strong interactions

haf·nia \'hafnēə\ *n* -S [NL, fr. *hafnium* + *-a*] **:** a white refractory crystalline oxide HfO_2 of hafnium

hailer* *n* [short for *loud-hailer*] **:** BULLHORN

hairweaving \'ˌ,ˌ\ *n* **:** the process of covering a bald spot with human hair and nylon thread woven into the wearer's own hair — **hairweave** \'ˌ,ˌ\ *n* — **hair weaver** *n*

ha·la·la *also* **ha·la·lah** \hə'lälə\ *n, pl* **halala** *or* **halalas** [Ar] **1 :** a monetary unit of Saudi Arabia equal to $\frac{1}{100}$ riyal — see MONEY table *in the Dict* **2 :** a coin representing one halala

halfway house* *n* **:** a center for formerly institutionalized individuals (as mental patients or drug addicts) that is designed to facilitate their readjustment to private life

hallucinate* *vt* **:** to perceive or experience as an hallucination

halo·cline \'halə,klīn\ *n* -S [*halo-* + *-cline*] **:** a usu. vertical gradient in salinity

hal·o·thane \'halə,thān\ *n* -S [*halo*gen + *ethane*] **:** a nonexplosive inhalational anesthetic

handprint \'ˌ,ˌ\ *n* **:** an impression of a hand on a surface

hang* *vb* — **hang five :** to ride a surfboard with the weight of the body forward and the toes of one foot turned over the front edge of the board — **hang ten :** to ride a surfboard with the weight of the body forward and the toes of both feet turned over the front edge of the board

hanging curve *n* **:** an intended curve ball that fails to break

hang-up* *n* **:** a source of mental or emotional difficulty

ha·ni·wa \'hänə,wä\ *n, pl* **haniwa** [Jap] **:** a large baked clay figure usu. in the form of a hollow cylinder or a crude human figure placed in groups on early Japanese grave mounds

happening* *n* **:** an event or series of events designed to evoke a spontaneous audience reaction to sensory, emotional, or spiritual stimuli: as **a :** the activities concurrent with or involved in the creation or presentation of a nonrepresentational art object (as an action painting) **b :** a usu. unrehearsed staged performance utilizing art objects and sound effects for chance and impromptu results

hap·to·glo·bin \'haptə,glōbən\ *n* -S [Gk *haptein* to fasten, bind + E *-o-* + hemo*globin* — more at APSIS] **:** a carbohydrate-containing serum alpha globulin that can combine with and may have a protective action toward hemoglobin

hard* *adj, of a drug* **:** being both addictive and gravely detrimental to health ⟨such ~ drugs as heroin⟩

hard copy *n* **:** copy (as that produced in connection with a computer) that is readable without use of a special device

hard-edge \'ˌ,ˌ\ *adj* **:** of or relating to abstract painting characterized by geometric forms with clearly defined boundaries

hardened* *adj* **:** protected from possible danger from blast or heat by means of concrete or earth or by being situated underground ⟨a ~ missile launching site⟩ ⟨a ~ missile⟩

hard-line \'ˌ,ˌ\ *adj* **:** advocating a persistently firm course of action **:** UNYIELDING ⟨*hard-line* policy toward polluters⟩

hard-lin·er \'härd'līnər\ *n* [*hard-line* (herein) + *-er*] **:** an advocate of a hard-line policy

hard rock *n* **:** basic rock 'n' roll in its original style

hardware* *n* **:** the physical components (as mechanical and electrical devices) of a vehicle or an apparatus

hawk* *n* **:** one who takes a militant attitude (as in a dispute) and advocates immediate vigorous action — compare DOVE *herein* — **hawk·ish** *adj* — **hawk·ish·ly** *adv* — **hawk·ish·ness** *n* -ES

haw·thorne effect \'hȯ,thȯrn-\ *n, usu cap H* [fr. the *Hawthorne* Works of the Western Electric Co., Cicero, Ill., where its existence was established by experiment] **:** the stimulation to output or accomplishment (as in an industrial or educational methods study) that results from the mere fact of being under concerned observation

hay·lage \'hālij\ *n* -S [*²hay* + *silage*] **:** a stored forage that is essentially a grass silage wilted to 35 to 50 percent moisture

head* *n* [short for *pothead* (herein) or *acidhead* (herein)] **:** one who uses a drug (as LSD or marijuana)

head dip *n* **:** a surfing feat in which a surfer squats on the board, leans forward, and dips his head into the wave

headrest* *n* **:** a resilient pad at the top of the back of an automobile seat esp. for preventing whiplash injury

head restraint *n* **:** HEADREST *herein*

heat pipe *n* **:** a closed container in which a continuing cycle of evaporation and condensation of a fluid takes place with the heat being given off at the condenser end and which is more effective in transferring heat than a metallic conductor

heat pollution *n* **:** THERMAL POLLUTION *herein*

heavy* *n* **heav·ies** *pl* **:** heavy surf; *esp* **:** waves over 10 ft. high

hedge fund *n* **:** an investing group usu. in the form of a limited partnership that employs speculative techniques (as short selling and leverage) in the hope of obtaining large capital gains

heli·borne \'helə,bō(ə)rn, 'hēl-, -bȯ(-\ *adj* [*²heli-* + *¹borne*] **:** transported by helicopter ⟨~ infantry⟩

he·lic·i·ty \he'lisəd·ē, hə-\ *n* -ES [*helic-* + *-ity*] **1 :** the motion of a particle about an axis parallel to its direction of motion **2 :** the component of the spin of a particle in its direction of motion measured in quantum units of spin

heli·lift \'helə,lift, -hēl-\ *vt* [*²heli-* + *lift*] **:** to transport (troops) by helicopter

heli·pad \'ˌ,ˌ\ *n* [*²heli-* + *¹pad*] **:** a landing and takeoff surface for helicopters

heli·spot \'ˌ,ˌ\ *n* [*²heli-* + *¹spot*] **:** a temporary landing surface for helicopters

heli·stop \'ˌ,ˌ\ *n* [*²heli-* + *²stop*] **:** HELIPORT

helium–4 *n* [*helium* + *4*, mass number of the isotope] **:** HELIUM

helium–3 *n* [*helium* + *3*, mass number of the isotope] **:** the isotope of helium having the mass number three

hep·a·top·a·thy \ˌhepə'täpəthē\ *n* -ES [*hepat-* + *-pathy*] **:** an abnormal or diseased state of the liver

hep·a·to·tox·ic·i·ty \ˌhepəd·ō,täk'sisəd·ē\ *n* -ES [*hepatotoxic* + *-ity*] **1 :** a state of toxic damage to the liver **2 :** capacity to cause hepatotoxicity — **hep·a·to·tox·in** \-'täksən\ *n* -S

hexa·decimal \ˌheksə+\ *adj* [alter. (influenced by *hexa*) of *sexadecimal*] **:** SEXIDECIMAL *herein* ⟨a ~ number system⟩

hidden tax *n* **:** INDIRECT TAX

high energy physics *n* **:** physics that deals with the constitution, properties, and interactions of elementary particles as revealed by experiments involving particle accelerators

high-rise \'ˌ,ˌ\ *adj* **1 :** being multistory and equipped with elevators ⟨*high-rise* apartment buildings⟩ **2 :** of, relating to, or characterized by high-rise buildings — **high rise** *n*

hip* *n* [*⁸hip*] **:** HIPNESS *herein*

hip-hugger \'ˌ,ˌ\ *n* **:** a low-slung usu. close-fitting outer garment (as slacks) that rests on the hips

hip·ness \'hipnəs\ *n* -ES [*⁸hip* + *-ness*] **:** the quality or state of being hip

hip·pie *or* **hip·py** \'hipē, -pi\ *n, pl* **hippies** [*⁸hip* + *-ie*] **:** a young person who rejects (as by dressing unconventionally or favoring communal living) the mores of established society, adheres to a nonviolent ethic, and often uses marijuana or psychedelic drugs; *broadly* **:** a long-haired unconventionally dressed young person

hip·pie·dom \-pēdəm, -pid-\ *n* -S [*hippie* (herein) + *-dom*] **:** the world of hippies

hip·ster·ism \'hipstə,rizəm\ *n* -S [*hipster* + *-ism*] **1 :** HIPNESS *herein* **2 :** the way of life characteristic of hipsters

his·to·compatibility \ˌhi(ˌ)stō+\ *n* [*hist-* + *compatibility*] **:** a state of mutual tolerance that allows some tissues to be grafted effectively to others — **his·to·compatible** \"+\ *adj*

ho·dad \'hō,dad\ *n* [perh. alter. of *hodag*] **:** a nonsurfer who frequents surfing beaches and pretends to be a surfer

hold* *n* **:** a delay in a countdown (as in launching a missile)

holding pattern *n* **:** the usu. oval course flown (as over an airport) by aircraft awaiting clearance to land

ho·lid·ic \hä'lidik, -hō'-\ *adj* [*hol-* + *-idic* (as in *meridic* — herein)] **:** having the active constituents chemically defined ⟨~ diets⟩ — compare MERIDIC, OLIGIDIC *herein*

hol·o·gram \'hälə,gram, 'hōl-\ *n* -S [*hol-* + *-gram*] **:** a three-dimensional picture produced in the form of an interference pattern on a photographic film or plate without use of a lens by two beams of coherent light (as from a laser) so that for reconstruction of the image the pattern is viewed by coherent light passing through the film or plate — **hol·o·graph** \-af\ *vt* -ED/-ING/-S — **hol·o·graph·ic** \ˌhälə'grafik, ˌhōl-\ *adj* — **hol·o·graph·i·cal·ly** \-fək(ə)lē\ *adv* — **ho·log·ra·phy** \hä'lägrəfē, hō'-\ *n* -ES

hom·i·ni·za·tion \ˌhämənə'zāshən, -,nī'-\ *n* -S [*homin-* + *-ization*] **1 :** the evolutionary development of human characteristics that differentiate man from his primate ancestors **2 :** the progressive taking over and adapting of the world to his needs by man — **hominized** *adj*

ho·mo ha·bi·lis \ˌhō(ˌ)mō'habələs\ *n, usu cap 1st H* [NL, fr. L *homo* man + *habilis* skillful, handy — more at HOMAGE, ABLE] **:** an extinct primate that is known from eastern African fossil remains associated with crude tools, is believed to have flourished some two million years ago, and is variously interpreted as the earliest true man or an australopithecine

homomorphism* *n* **:** a mapping of one mathematical group on itself or another so that the results of the group operations correspond

ho·mo·phile \'hōməˌfīl\ *adj* [*homo-* + *²-phil*] **:** GAY 8b

hon·cho \'hän(ˌ)chō\ *n* -S [Jap *hanchō* squad leader, fr. *han* squad + *chō* head, chief] **:** BOSS

hon·kie *or* **hon·ky** *also* **hon·key** \'häŋkē, -ki *also* 'hōŋ-\ *n, pl* **honkies** *also* **honkeys** [origin unknown] **:** a white man — usu. used disparagingly

hot-dog \'hät,dȯg *sometimes* -däg\ *vb* **hot-dogged**; **hot-dogged**; **hot-dog·ging**; **hot-dogs** [prob. fr. *²hot dog*] *vi* **:** to perform stunts and fancy maneuvers while riding a surfboard ~ *vt* **:** to hotdog on (a wave) — **hotdogger** *also* **hotdog** *n* — **hotdogging** *n* -S

hotel china *n* **:** a high-fired well-vitrified American ceramic ware approaching hard-paste porcelain in composition

hot line *n* **:** a direct telephone line in constant readiness to operate so as to facilitate immediate communication (as between heads of two governments)

hung up* \ˌhəŋ'əp\ *adj* **1 :** having a hang-up **:** ANXIOUS ⟨sometimes I'm so *hung up* I can't function —*New Yorker*⟩ **2 :** being much involved with: as **a :** INFATUATED ⟨they get *hung up* on some fellow here —Jeff Brown⟩ **b :** ENTHUSIASTIC ⟨people who are *hung up* on French Provincial —Walter Goodman⟩ **c :** OBSESSED ⟨*hung up* on winning⟩

hunting* *n* **1 :** a self-induced and undesirable oscillation of a variable above and below the desired value in an automatic control system **2 :** a continuous attempt by an automatically controlled system to find a desired equilibrium condition

hutzpah *or* **hutzpa** *var of* CHUTZPAH

hydro* *n* [by shortening] **:** HYDROPLANE 2a

hy·dro·chlo·ro·thi·az·ide \ˌhīdrə,klōrə'thīə,zīd\ *n* [*hydr-* + *chlor-* + *thi-* + *azide*] **:** a diuretic and hypotensive drug

hy·dro·crack·er *n* **:** an apparatus for hydrocracking

hy·dro·dy·nam·i·cist \ˌhīdrōdī'naməsəst\ *n* -S [*hydrodynamics* + *-ist*] **:** one who specializes in hydrodynamics

hydrofoil* *n* **:** a motorboat that has metal plates or fins attached by struts fore and aft so that they act in water as airplane wings do in air and lift the hull a short distance above the water

hy·dro·gasification \ˌhīdrō+\ *n* [*hydr-* + *gasification*] **:** the process of reacting hydrogen or a mixture of steam and hydrogen with coal at high temperature and high pressure so that the carbon in the coal reacts directly or indirectly to produce methane used for fuel — **hy·dro·gasifier** \"+\ *n*

hy·dro·magnetic \ˌhīdrō+\ *adj* [*hydr-* + *magnetic*] **1 :** MAGNETOHYDRODYNAMIC **2 :** being a wave in an electrically conducting fluid in a magnetic field

hy·dro·magnetics \"+\ *n pl but sing in constr* [*hydr-* + *magnetics*] **:** MAGNETOHYDRODYNAMICS

hy·dro·naut \'hīdrə,nȯt, -nät\ *n* -S [*hydr-* + *-naut* (as in *astronaut*)] **:** a member of the crew of a deep-sea vehicle (as a bathyscaphe) other than a submarine

hy·dron·ic \hī'dränik\ *adj* [*hydr-* + *-onic* (as in *electronic*)] **:** of, relating to, or being a system of heating or cooling that involves transfer of heat by a circulating fluid in a closed system of pipes — **hy·dron·i·cal·ly** \-nək(ə)lē\ *adv*

hy·dron·ics \-niks\ *n pl but usu sing in constr* [*hydronic* + *-s*] **:** a hydronic system

hy·dro·plan·ing \'hīdrə,plāniŋ\ *n* -S [*hydroplaning*, gerund of *²hydroplane*] **:** the riding of an automobile or airplane tire on a film of water on a wet surface when a critical speed is reached and when the lift between the tire and the pavement exceeds the weight riding on the tire with a resultant loss of directional stability and braking effectiveness

hy·dro·skimmer \'hīdrō+,\ *n* [*hydr-* + *skimmer*] **:** a ground-effect machine for use over water

hy·dro·space \"+,\ *n* [*hydr-* + *space*] **:** the regions beneath the surface of the ocean

hy·dro·treat \"+,\ *vt* [*hydr-* + *¹treat*] **:** to subject to hydrogenation ⟨~ lube oil⟩ — **hy·dro·treat·er** *n*

hy·dro·trope \'hīdrə,trōp\ *n* -S [back-formation fr. *hydrotropic*] **:** a hydrotropic substance

hy·droxo·cobalamin \hī,dräksə, -(ˌ)sō+\ *n* [*hydroxo-* + *cobalamin*] **:** a member of the vitamin B_{12} group used in treating and preventing B_{12} deficiency

hype* *n* **1 :** DECEPTION, PUT-ON ⟨had come upon some way I could work a ~ on the penal authorities —Malcolm X⟩ **2 :** ADVERTISEMENT, BLURB

hype *vt* -ED/-ING/-S [*hype*, n.] **1 :** to put on **:** MISLEAD, DECEIVE **2 :** STIMULATE, JAZZ 2a — usu. used with *up* ⟨his assignment is to ~ up the crowd —J.S.Radasta⟩

hy·per·al·dos·te·ron·ism \ˌhīpəral'dästə,rō,nizəm, -ldōstə'rō-\ *n* -S [*hyper-* + *aldosterone* + *-ism*] **:** ALDOSTERONISM *herein*

hyperbaric* *adj* **:** of, relating to, or utilizing greater than normal pressure esp. of oxygen ⟨~ medicine⟩

hy·per·charge \'hīpə(r)+,\ *n* [*hyper-* + *charge*] **:** a quantum characteristic of a closely related group of strongly interacting particles represented by a number equal to twice the average value of the electric charge of the group

hy·per·velocity \'hīpə(r)+\ *n, often attrib* [*hyper-* + *velocity*] **:** a high or relatively high velocity; *esp* **:** one greater than 10,000 feet per second

IC* *abbr* integrated circuit *herein*
ice* *n* **:** an undercover premium paid to a theater employee for choice theater tickets
ice-cream chair *n* [fr. its use in ice-cream parlors] **:** a small armless chair with a circular seat for use at a table
ice-out \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* -s [*ice* + ¹*out*] **:** the disappearance of ice from the surface of a body of water (as a lake) as a result of thawing
idem-po-tent \ˌīˈdempədənt; ˌīdəmˈpōtᵊnt, ˌīˌdem-\ *adj* [ISV *idem-* same (fr. L *idem*) + L *potent-, potens* having power — more at IDENTITY, POTENT] **:** being a mathematical quantity which is not zero and every positive power of which equals itself — **idem-po-ten-cy** \-ənsē, -ᵊnsē\ *n* -ES
ike-ba-na \ˌikäˈbänə, ˌēk-, -kēˈ-\ *n* [Jap, fr. *iki* alive + *hana* flower] **:** the Japanese art of flower arranging that emphasizes form and balance
illuminate* *vt* **:** to subject to radiation — **illumination*** *n*
im-bal-anced \(ˈ)imˈbalən(t)st\ *adj* [*imbalance* + *-ed*] **:** not balanced; *esp* **:** having an unequal number of members of one racial or ethnic group ⟨~ schools⟩
imi-pra-mine \ˌimə ˈpraˌmēn, -mən; ˌīˈmiprəˌ, ˌəˈm-\ *n* [*imid-* + *propyl* + *amine*] **:** an antidepressant drug
im-mit-tance \iˈmitᵊn(t)s\ *n* -s [*im*pedance + ad*mittance*] **:** ADMITTANCE; *also* **:** IMPEDANCE — used of transmission lines, networks, and measuring instruments
immuno-* *comb form* **:** immunologic ⟨*immuno*hematology⟩
im-mu-no-assay \ˈimyənōˌ, əˈmyünō-\ *n* [*immuno-* + *assay*] **:** the determination of a substance (as a protein or peptide hormone) through use of its capacity to act as an antigen
im-mu-no-competence \ˈ=+\ *n* [*immuno-* + *competence*] **:** the capacity for normal immune response — **im-mu-no-competent** \ˈ=+\ *adj*
im-mu-no-cytochemistry \ˈ=+\ *n* [*immuno-* + *cytochemistry*] **:** the biochemistry of cellular immunology — **im-mu-no-cytochemical** \ˈ=+\ *adj* — **im-mu-no-cytochemically** \ˈ=+\ *adv*
im-mu-no-diffusion \ˈ=+\ *n* [*immuno-* + *diffusion*] **:** the separating of a complex antigen into discrete parts by differential diffusion
im-mu-no-electrophoresis \ˈ =+\ *n, pl* **immunoelectrophoreses** \-ēˌ(ˌ)sēz\ [*immuno-* + *electrophoresis*] **:** electrophoretic separation of proteins followed by identification through specific immunologic reactions — **im-mu-no-electrophoretic** \ˈ =+\ *adj* — **im-mu-no-electrophoretically** \ˈ=+\ *adv*
im-mu-no-fluorescence \ˈ=+\ *n* [*immuno-* + *fluorescence*] **:** antibody demonstration by use of a fluorescent dye to label the antibody — **im-mu-no-fluorescent** \ˈ=+\ *adj*
im-mu-no-globulin \ˈ=+\ *n* [*immuno-* + *globulin*] **:** IMMUNE GLOBULIN
im-mu-no-hematology \ˈ=+\ *n* [*immuno-* + *hematology*] **:** a branch of immunology that deals with the immunologic properties of blood — **im-mu-no-hematologic** \ˈ=+\ *adj* — **im-mu-no-hematological** \ˈ=+\ *adj*
im-mu-no-histochemical \ˈ=+\ *adj* [*immuno-* + *histochemical*] **:** of or relating to the application of histochemical and immunologic methods to chemical analysis of living cells and tissues — **im-mu-no-histochemically** \ˈ=+\ *adv*
im-mu-no-histology \ˈ=+\ *n* [*immuno-* + *histology*] **:** a branch of immunology that deals with the application of immunologic methods to histology — **im-mu-no-histologic** \ˈ=+\ *adj* — **im-mu-no-histological** \ˈ=+\ *adj* — **im-mu-no-histologically** \ˈ=+\ *adv*
im-mu-no-pathology \ˈ=+\ *n* [*immuno-* + *pathology*] **:** a branch of medicine that deals with immunologic abnormalities and disease — **im-mu-no-pathologic** \ˈ=+\ *adj* — **im-mu-no-patho-logical** \ˈ=+\ *adj* — **im-mu-no-pathologist** \ˈ=+\ *n*
im-mu-no-reactive \ˈ=+\ *adj* [*immuno-* + *reactive*] **:** reacting to particular antigens or haptens ⟨serum ~ to insulin⟩ — **im-mu-no-reactivity** \ˈ=+\ *n*
im-mu-no-suppression \ˈ=+\ *n* [*immuno-* + *suppression*] **:** the suppression of natural immune responses — **im-mu-no-suppressant** \ˈ=+\ *n* — **im-mu-no-suppressive** \ˈ=+\ *adj*
impacted area *n* **:** an area in which a large number of public school students are from families living or working on non-taxable federal property
imported fire ant *n* **:** a small brown So. American fire ant (*Solenopsis saevissima richteri*) that is a destructive pest in the southeastern U.S.
in* *adj* **1 :** keenly aware of and responsive to what is new and smart ⟨the ~ crowd⟩ **2 :** highly approved by those who are au courant ⟨the ~ place to go⟩ — **in-ness** \ˈinnəs\ *n* -ES
-in \ˌin\ *n comb form* -s [²*in* (as in *sit-in*)] **1 :** organized public protest by means of or in favor of **:** demonstration ⟨teach-*in*⟩ ⟨love-*in*⟩ **2 :** public group activity ⟨swim-*in*⟩
in-and-out* *adj* **:** involving purchase and sale of the same security within a short period ⟨*in-and-out* trading⟩
in-ca-pac-i-tant \ˌinkəˈpasətənt, -sədˌə-\ *n* -s [*incapacit*ate + *-ant*] **:** an incapacitating agent ⟨a chemical ~⟩
indicator* *n* **:** any of a group of statistical values (as level of employment and change in the price of industrial raw materials) that taken together give an indication of the health of the economy — compare COINCIDENT, LAGGER, LEADER *herein*
inducer* *n* **:** a substance capable of activating a structural gene by combining with and inactivating a genetic repressor
industrial-revenue bond *n* **:** a revenue bond issued to provide industrial facilities for lease and dependent on the lease revenue for amortization and interest payments
inertial platform *n* **:** an assemblage of devices used in inertial guidance together with the mounting
inertial space *n* **:** a part of space away from the earth assumed to have fixed coordinates so that the trajectory of an object (as a spacecraft or missile) may be calculated in relation to it
inertia welding *n* **:** the welding of metals by means of the heat produced by friction when one metallic piece is pressed while spinning against another
in-fauna \ˈinˌ+\ *n* [NL, fr. *in-*, ¹in- + *fauna*] **:** benthic fauna living in the substrate and esp. in a soft sea bottom — compare EPIFAUNA *herein* — **in-fau-nal** \ˈ=+\ *adj*
in-flight \(ˌ)=ˈ=\ *adj* [fr. the phrase *in flight*] **:** made or carried out while in flight **:** provided for use or enjoyment while in flight ⟨*in-flight* movies⟩ ⟨*in-flight* calculations⟩
information science *n* **:** a study that deals with the properties of information and its storage, retrieval, and dissemination
in-fra-sound \ˈinfrəˌ+\ *n* [*infra-* + *³sound*] **:** a wave phenomenon of the same physical nature as sound but with frequencies below the range of human hearing
in-house \(ˌ)=ˈ=\ *adj* [¹*in* + ¹*house*] **:** of, relating to, or carried on within a group or organization
ini-tial-ism \əˈnishəˌlizəm\ *n* -s [²*initial* + *-ism*] **:** an acronym formed from initial letters
initial teaching alphabet *n* [so called because it is used only in the initial stages of teaching reading] **:** a 44-symbol alphabet designed esp. for children who are learning to read English
injection* *n* **1 :** the placing of an artificial satellite or a spacecraft into an orbit — called also *insertion* **2 :** the time or place at which injection occurs
in-line \(ˌ)=ˈ=\ *adj (or adv)* [*in line*] **:** having the parts or units arranged in a straight line; *also* **:** being so arranged
inner city *n* **:** the usu. older and most densely populated central section of a city — **inner-city** *adj*
insertion* *n* **:** INJECTION *herein*
instruction* *n* **:** a code that tells a computer to perform a particular operation
insurance run *n* **:** a run scored in baseball that gives a team a two-run lead
integrated circuit *n* **:** a tiny complex of electronic components (as transistors, resistors, and capacitors) and their interconnections produced in or on a single small slice of material (as silicon) — called also *chip*
in-te-gro-differential \ˌintəˌ(ˌ)grō, inˈte-, inˈtē-+\ *adj* [¹*integral* + *-o-* + ¹*differential*] **:** involving both mathematical integration and differentiation
intensive care *adj* **:** having special medical facilities, services, and monitoring devices to meet the needs of gravely ill patients ⟨*intensive care* unit⟩ — **intensive care** *n*
interface* *n* **1 :** the place at which two independent systems meet and act upon or communicate with each other ⟨the ~ between engineering and science⟩ ⟨the man-machine ~⟩; *broadly* **:** an area in which diverse things interact on each other ⟨~ between the known and unknown⟩ ⟨the high school-college ~⟩ **2 :** the means by which interaction or communication is effected at an interface ⟨an ~ between a computer and a typesetting machine⟩
interface* *vt* **1 :** to connect by means of an interface ⟨~ a machine with a computer⟩ **2 :** to serve as an interface for ⟨~ *vi* **1 :** to become interfaced ⟨a system that ~*s* with a computer⟩ **2 :** to serve as an interface ⟨*interfacing* hardware⟩
in-ter-fer-on \ˌintəˈ(r)ˈfi(ə)ˌrän\ *n* -s [*interfer*ence + ¹*-on*] **:** a heat-stable soluble basic antiviral protein of low molecular weight produced usu. by cells exposed to the action of a virus or experimentally to that of certain chemicals
in-ter-laboratory \ˌintə(r)+\ *adj* [*inter-* + *laboratory*] **:** of, relating to, or engaged in by more than one laboratory
in-ter-me-dia \ˌintə(r)ˈmēdēə\ *adj* [*inter-* + ¹*media*] **:** involving the simultaneous use of several media and esp. several electronic media
in-ter-mod-al \-ˈmōdᵊl\ *adj* [*inter-* + ¹*mode* + *-al*] **1 :** being or involving transportation by more than one form of carrier during a single journey **2 :** used for intermodal transportation
in-ter-ro-bang *also* **in-tera-bang** \inˈterəˌbaŋ, -aiŋ\ *n* -s [*interro*gation point + *bang* (printers' slang for *exclamation point*)] **:** a punctuation mark ‽ designed for use esp. at the end of an exclamatory rhetorical question
interrogate* *vt* **:** to give or send out a signal to (as a computer) for triggering an appropriate response
in-ter-sensory \ˌintə(r)+\ *adj* [*inter-* + *sensory*] **:** involving two or more sensory systems ⟨~ factors in memory loss⟩
in-tra-cardiac \ˌin-trə, -nˌ(ˌ)trä+\ *also* **in-tra-car-di-al** \ˈ=ˌ+ˈkärdēəl\ *adj* [*intracardiac* fr. *intra-* + *cardiac; intracardial* fr. *intra-* + *cardi-* + *-al*] **:** situated or occurring within the heart — **in-tra-car-di-al-ly** \-ēəlē\ *adv*
in-tra-day \ˈ=ˌ=\ *adj* [*intra-* + *day*] **:** occurring in the course of a single day ⟨the market showed wide ~ fluctuations⟩
in-tra-personal \ˈ=+\ *adj* [*intra-* + *personal*] **:** occurring within the individual mind or self ⟨~ concerns of the aged⟩
in-tra-population \ˈ=+\ *adj* [*intra-* + *population*] **:** occurring within or taking place between members of a population
intrauterine device \ˌ=ˌ=ˌ(ˌ)=ˈ=\ *n* [*intra-* + *uterine*] **:** a device (as a spiral of plastic or a ring of stainless steel) inserted and left in the uterus to prevent effective conception
in-tra-vascular \ˌin-trə, -nˌ(ˌ)trä+\ *adj* [ISV *intra-* + *vascular*] **:** occurring or situated within a vessel and esp. a blood vessel ⟨~ thrombosis⟩ — **in-tra-vascularly** \ˈ=+\ *adv*
in-tro-gres-sant \ˌin-trəˈgresᵊnt, -trō-\ *adj* [by alter.] **:** INTROGRESSIVE — **introgressant** *n* -s
investment letter stock *n* : LETTER STOCK *herein*
ionic propulsion *n* : ION PROPULSION *herein*
ion-o-mer \ˈīänəmər\ *n* -s [*ion* + *-o-* + *polymer*] **:** any of a class of tough synthetic ethylene-based thermoplastic resins consisting of a long-chain polymer
ion-o-sonde \īˈänəˌsänd\ *n* [ISV *ionosphere* + *sonde*] **:** a device for determining and recording the heights of ionized layers in the ionosphere by shortwaves reflected from them
ion propulsion *n* **:** propulsion of a body by the forces resulting from the rearward discharge of a stream of ionized particles
ion rocket *n* **:** ION ENGINE
iso-enzume \ˈīsōˌ *also* ˈīzō+\ *n* [*is-* + *enzyme*] **:** ISOZYME *herein* — **iso-enzymic** \ˈ=+\ *adj*
isolated camera *n* [so called fr. its focusing on isolated activities of the game] **:** a television camera used to videotape an ongoing activity (as a play in football) for immediate replay
iso-met-rics \ˌīsəˈmetriks *also* ˌīzə-\ *n pl but sing or pl in constr* [¹*isometric* + *-s*] **:** exercise or a system of exercises involving isometric contraction of muscles
isomorphic* *adj* **:** having mathematical elements in one-to-one correspondence with the elements of another set
iso-spin \ˈīsəˌspin *also* ˈīzə-\ *n* -s [*isotopic spin* (herein)] **:** a quantum characteristic of a group of closely related elementary particles (as a proton and a neutron) handled mathematically like ordinary spin with the possible orientations in a hypothetical space specifying the number of particles of differing electric charge comprising the group
isotopic spin *n* : ISOSPIN *herein*
iso-zyme \ˈīsəˌzīm *also* ˈīzə-\ *n* -s [*is-* + *-zyme*] **:** one of two or more chemically distinct but functionally like enzymes
ITA \ˌīˌtēˈā\ *abbr* initial teaching alphabet *herein*
iterative* *adj* **:** involving the repeated application of a procedure until a specified condition is satisfied with testing for the condition done after the completion of each iteration ⟨an ~ procedure in computer programming⟩ — compare RECURSIVE 2b *herein*
IUD \ˌīyüˈdē\ *abbr or n* -s intrauterine device *herein*
jams \ˈjamz\ *n pl* [prob. by shortening fr. *pajamas*] **:** knee-length loose-fitting swim trunks usu. having a drawstring waist and large brightly colored patterns — compare BAGGIES *herein*
jaw-bon-ing \ˈjōˌbōniŋ\ *n* [*jawbone* + *-ing*] **:** a strong appeal by a chief of state to national business and labor leaders for price and wage restraints
jazz* *n* **:** similar but unspecified things **:** STUFF ⟨*I love* sailing . . . that wind, and the waves, and all that ~ —John Updike⟩
jet-ava-tor \ˈjed-əˌvād-ə(r)\ *n* -s [irreg. fr. ⁶*jet* + el*evator*] **:** a control surface for deflecting a rocket's exhaust stream so as to change the direction of thrust
jet set *n* **:** an international social group of wealthy individuals who frequent fashionable resorts — **jet-set-ter** \ˈjet,sed-ə(r)\ *n*
job-hopping \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* -s **:** the practice of moving (as for immediate financial gain) from job to job — **job-hopper** \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n*
jock* *n* [so called fr. the wearing of jockstraps by such athletes] **:** ATHLETE; *esp* **:** a school or college athlete
jogging *n* -s [*jogging*, gerund of *jog*] **:** running at a slow even pace, *also* **:** exercise consisting of walking and jogging
john birch-er \ˈjän ˈbərchər\ *n, usu cap J & B* **:** BIRCHER *herein*
jo-mon \ˈjōˌmän\ *adj, often cap* [Jap *jōmon* straw rope pattern; fr. the characteristic method of forming designs on pottery of the period] **:** of, relating to, or typical of a Japanese neolithic cultural period extending from about 3000 B.C. or earlier to about 200 B.C. and characterized esp. by elaborately ornamented hand-formed unglazed pottery (**Jomon ware**)
jo-seph-son effect \ˈjōzəfsən- *also* -ōsə-\ *n, usu cap J* [after B. D. *Josephson*, 20th cent. Eng. physicist] **:** the passage of electrons at superconductivity temperatures through a thin insulator separating two superconductors so that when the electrons are accelerated through the barrier by application of a voltage the energy they gain is emitted as radiation
ju-do-ist \ˈjüˌ(ˌ)dōəst, -üdəwə-\ *n* -s [*judo* + *-ist*] **:** one who is trained or skilled in judo
jug band *n* **:** a band that plays jazz on usu. crude improvised instruments (as a jug, washboard, and stovepipe)
juice* *n* **1 :** LIQUOR **2 :** exorbitant interest exacted of a borrower under the threat of violence
juke* *vt* **:** to fake out of position (as in football)
jump cut *n* **:** a discontinuity or acceleration in the action of a filmed scene brought about by removal of medial portions of the shot
jumper* *n* **:** JUMP SHOT 3
jumping-jack* *n* **:** an exercise performed in a standing position in which the subject spreads his legs and throws his arms over his head with a jump and returns to his original position with another jump — called also *side-straddle hop*
jump suit* *n* **:** a one-piece garment consisting of a blouse or shirt with attached trousers or shorts
junk art *n* **:** three-dimensional art made from discarded material (as of metal, mortar, glass, or wood) — **junk artist** *n*
ju-ri-me-tri-cian \ˌjůrəmə-ˈtrishən\ *n* -s [*jurimetrics* (herein) + ¹*-an*] **:** a specialist in jurimetrics
ju-ri-met-rics \ˌjůrəˈme-triks\ *n pl but usu sing in constr* [L *juri-, jus* law + E *-metrics* (as in *econometrics*) — more at JUST] **:** the application of scientific methods to legal problems
juvenile hormone *n* **:** a compound prob. related to farnesol that is widespread in nature, that is secreted by the corpora allata of insects in which it inhibits maturation to the imago and plays a role in reproductive phenomena, and that has been used experimentally to control pest insects by disrupting their life cycles
ju-ve-nil-ize \ˈjüvənᵊlˌīz\ *vt* -ED/-ING/-S [*juvenile* + *-ize*] **:** to restrain from normal development and maturation **:** prolong the immaturity of ⟨chemicals that ~ insect larvae⟩ — **ju-ve-nil-iza-tion** \ˌjüvənᵊləˈzāshən, -ᵊlˌīˈz-\ *n* -s
kaf-ka-esque \ˌkäfkəˈesk, ˌkaf-\ *adj, usu cap* [Franz *Kafka* †1924 Austrian writer + E *-esque*] **:** of, relating to, or suggestive of Franz Kafka or his writings
ka-lim-ba \kəˈlimbə, kä-\ *n* -s [of African origin; akin to Bemba *akalimba* zanza, Kimbundu *marimba* xylophone] **:** an African musical instrument that is derived from the zanza
kal-li-din \ˈkaləd͟ən\ *n* -s [G, fr. *kallikrein* + *-d-* (prob. fr. *dekapeptid* peptide having 10 amino acids, fr. *deka-* + *peptid* peptide) + *-in*] **:** any of several kinins formed from blood plasma globulin by the action of kallikrein
kal-li-kre-in \ˌkaləˈkrēən, kəˈlik-\ *n* -s [G, fr. *kalli-* calli- + pan*kreas* pancreas (fr. Gk) + *-in;* prob. so called fr. its therapeutic use in pancreatic disorders] **:** an enzyme that liberates kinins from blood plasma
ka-na-my-cin \ˌkanəˈmīsᵊn, ˌkän-\ *n* -s [NL *kanamyceticus* (specific epithet of *Streptomyces kanamyceticus*) + E *-in*] **:** a broad-spectrum antibiotic from a Japanese soil actinomycete (*Streptomyces kanamyceticus*)
ka-on \ˈkāˌänˌ\ *n* -s [ISV ¹*ka* (fr. *K-meson* — herein) + ²*-on*] **:** an unstable meson of cosmic radiation or produced in high-energy particle collisions with its charged forms being 966.3 times more massive than the electron and its neutral form being 974.6 times more massive than the electron
ka-ra-tsu ware \kəˈrät(ˌ)sü-\ *n, usu cap K* [fr. *Karatsu*, city in Japan] **:** a Japanese ceramic ware traditionally made from the 7th century at Karatsu on Kyushu island that is probably the earliest glazed Japanese ceramic ware, includes both earthenware and stoneware, and comprises chiefly vessels for chanoyu
kart \ˈkärt\ *n* -s [prob. fr. *GoKart*, a trademark] **:** a miniature motorcar used esp. for racing
kart-ing \ˈkärd-iŋ\ *n* -s [*kart* (herein) + *-ing*] **:** the sport of racing miniature motorcars
kbar *abbr* kilobar *herein*
keeper* *n* **:** an offensive football play in which the quarterback keeps the ball and runs usu. around end
ken-ya-pi-the-cus \ˌkenyəpəˈthēkəs, -ˈpithək-\ *n, usu cap* [NL, genus name, fr. *Kenya*, country in Africa + *-pithecus*] **:** an ancient prehuman African primate that is held to belong to the human ancestral line and that is placed in a distinct genus (*Kenyapithecus*) or included in *Ramapithecus*
key club *n* [so called because each member is provided with a key to the premises] **:** an informal private club serving liquor and providing entertainment
kick out* *vi* **:** to turn a surfboard around and drive it over the top of a wave by pushing down on the rear of the board with the foot
kilo-bar \ˈkiləˌbär\ *n* -s [ISV *kilo-* + ⁷*bar*] **:** a unit of pressure equal to one thousand bars — abbr. *kbar*
kilo-megacycle \ˌkilō+\ *n* [ISV *kilo-* + *megacycle*] **:** one thousand megacycles **:** one billion cycles
kinetic art *n* **:** art (as sculpture or assemblage) having mechanical parts which can be set in motion (as by a motor) — **kinetic artist** *n*
ki-net-i-cism \kəˈned-əˌsizəm, kī-\ *n* -s [*kinetic* (*art*) + *-ism*] **:** KINETIC ART *herein*
ki-net-i-cist \-ˌsəst\ *n* -s [*kinetic* + *-ist*] **1 :** a specialist in kinetics **2 :** KINETIC ARTIST *herein*
ki-ne-tin \ˈkīnətən\ *n* -s [*kinet-* + *-in*] **:** a plant growth substance that increases mitosis and callus formation
ki-nin \ˈkīnən\ *n* -s [Gk *kinein* to move, stimulate + E *-in* — more at HIGHT] **1 :** any of various polypeptide hormones formed locally in the tissues and acting on smooth muscle **2 :** any of various plant growth factors prob. related to adenine that function in growth processes
ki-nin-o-gen \kīˈninəjən\ *n* [*kinin* (herein) + *-o-* + *-gen*] **:** an inactive precursor of a kinin — **ki-nin-o-gen-ic** \(ˌ)=ˈ=ˈjenik\ *adj*
kinky* *adj, chiefly Brit* **:** FAR-OUT, OFFBEAT
klutz \ˈklət͟s\ *n* -ES [Yiddish *klotz, klutz*, fr. G *klotz*, lit., wooden block, fr. MHG *kloz* lumpy mass — more at CLOT] **:** a clumsy and awkward person — **klutzy** *adj* -ER/-EST
k-meson \ˈkā+\ *n, usu cap K* [¹*K* + *meson*] **:** KAON *herein*
kook \ˈkük\ *n* -s [by shortening and alter. fr. *cuckoo*] **:** one whose ideas or actions are eccentric, fantastic, or insane
kooky *also* **kook-ie** \ˈkükē, -ki\ *adj* **kook-i-er; kook-i-est** [*kook* (herein) + *-ie*] **:** having the characteristics of a kook **:** CRAZY, OFFBEAT — **kook-i-ness** *n* -ES
k particle *n, usu cap K* [¹*K*] **:** KAON *herein*
krem-lin-ol-o-gy \ˌkremlᵊnäləjē\ *n* -ES *usu cap* [*Kremlin* + *-o-* + *-logy*] **:** the study of the policies and practices of the Soviet Russian government — **krem-lin-ol-o-gist** \-jəst\ *n* -s *usu cap*
ku-ta-ni \kùˈtänē\ *or* **kutani ware** *n* -s *usu cap K* [fr. *Kutani*, village in Japan] **:** a Japanese porcelain produced in and about the village of Kutani on Honshu island since the mid-17th century and esteemed for originality of design and coloring
kwa-cha \ˈkwächə\ *n, pl* **kwacha** [native name in Zambia, lit., dawn] **1 :** the basic monetary unit of Zambia — see MONEY table *in the Dict* **2 :** a note representing one kwacha
la-combe \ləˈkōm\ *n, usu cap* [fr. *Lacombe* Experiment Station, Lacombe, Alta., Canada, where the breed was developed] **:** a breed of white bacon-type swine developed in Canada from Landrace, Chester White, and Berkshire stock
laggard* *n* **:** a secur ty whose price has lagged for no obvious reason behind the average of its group or of the market
lagger* *n* **:** an economic indicator (as spending on new plants and equipment) that more often than not maintains an existent trend for some time after the state of the economy has turned onto an opposite trend — called also *lagging index*
lambda* *or* **lambda particle** *n* **:** an uncharged elementary particle that has a mass 2183 times that of an electron, is an unstable baryon, and decays typically into a nucleon and a pion with an average lifetime of 2.6×10^{-10} second
landmark* *n* **:** a structure (as a building) of unusual historical and usu. aesthetic interest; *esp* **:** one that is officially designated and set aside for preservation
language* *n* **:** MACHINE LANGUAGE *herein*
lan-tian man \ˌlänˌtyən-\ *also* **lan-tien man** \-ˌtyen-\ *n usu cap L* [fr. *Lant'ien*, district in Shensi province, China] **:** an extinct man known from parts of a skull excavated in China and held to be an extremely primitive example of modern man
la-place transform \ləˈplās-, -las-\, *n usu cap L* [after Pierre Simon de *Laplace* †1827 Fr. astronomer and mathematician] **:** a transformation of a function $f(x)$ into the function $g(t) = \int_0^\infty e^{-xt} f(x)\,dx$ that is useful esp. in reducing the solution of an ordinary linear differential equation with constant coefficients to the solution of a polynomial equation
lase \ˈlāz\ *vi* -ED/-ING/-S [back-formation fr. *laser*] **:** to emit coherent light
l-as-pa-rag-i-nase \ˌe,laspəˈrajəˌnās, -āz\ *n, usu cap L* [*L-*(levorotatory) + *asparagine* + *-ase*] **:** an enzyme that breaks down the L-form of asparagine, is obtained esp. from bacteria, and is used to treat leukemia
law-ren-cium \lōˈren(t)sēəm, lə-, -nch(ē)əm\ *n* -s [NL, fr. Ernest O. *Lawrence* †1958 Am. physicist + NL *-ium*] **:** a short-lived radioactive element of atomic number 103 that is produced artificially from californium — symbol *Lr*
lay-about \ˈlāəˌbau̇t\ *n* -s [fr. the phrase *lay about*, nonstandard alter. of *lie about*] *chiefly Brit* **:** IDLER
lay-by* *n* **:** the final operation (as a last cultivating) in the growing of a field crop
lazy eye *n* **:** AMBLYOPIA
l-do-pa \(ˈ)elˈdōpə\ *n, usu cap L* [*l-* + *dopa*] **:** the levorotatory form of dopa found esp. in broad beans or prepared synthetically and used in treating Parkinson's disease
leader* *n* **:** an economic indicator (as the level of corporate profits or of stock prices) that more often than not shows a change in direction before a corresponding change in the state of the economy — called also *leading indicator*
LEM \ˈlem\ *abbr or n* -s lunar excursion module *herein*
le-one \lēˈōn\ *n* -s [fr. Sierra *Leone*, Africa] **1 :** the basic monetary unit of Sierra Leone — see MONEY table *in the Dict* **2 :** a note representing one leone
lep-ton-ic \(ˈ)lepˈtänik\ *adj* [*lepton* + *-ic*] **:** of, relating to, or producing a lepton ⟨~ decay of a hyperon⟩
lepton number *n* **:** a number equal to the number of leptons minus that of antileptons in a system of elementary particles

lesion *vt* -ED/-ING/-S [*lesion*, n.] : to produce lesions in
let·ter·set \ˈ=ˌ=,set\ *n* -S [*letter*press + *offset*] : DRY OFFSET
letter stock *n* [so called fr. the letter signed by the purchaser stating that the stock is acquired for investment and not for public sale] : restricted and unregistered stock that may not be sold to the general public without undergoing registration
leu·ke·mic \lü'kēmik, -mēk\ *n* -S [*leukemia* + *-ic*] : a person suffering from leukemia
lev·al·lor·phan \ˌlevəˈlȯrˌfan, -ˌfən\ *n* -S [*lev-* + *allyl* + *morphine* + *-an*] : a drug related to morphine that is used to counteract morphine poisoning
leverage *vt* -ED/-ING/-S [*leverage*, n.] : to provide (as a corporation) with leverage
lex·is \ˈleksəs\ *n, pl* **lex·es** \-kˌsēz\ [Gk, speech, word — more at LEXICON] : VOCABULARY, WORD-STOCK
li·dar \ˈlīˌdär\ *n* -S [*light* + *radar*] : a device or system for locating an object that is similar in operation to radar but emits pulsed laser light instead of microwaves
life science *n* : the branch of science that deals with living organisms and life processes and that includes the biological, the medical, and the social sciences
life–support system *n* : a system that provides all or some of the items (as oxygen, food, water, control of temperature and pressure, disposition of carbon dioxide and body wastes) necessary for maintaining (as in a spacecraft or on the surface of the moon) the life and health of a person
lifting body *n* : a maneuverable rocket-propelled wingless vehicle that is capable of travel in aerospace or in the earth's atmosphere where its lift is derived from its shape and that can be landed on the ground
light pen *n* : a hand-held photosensitive device that is connected to a computer and used with the cathode-ray tube display for direct communication with the computer by adding, deleting, manipulating, or altering information
light show *n* : a kaleidoscopic display of colored lights, slides, and films that imitates the effects of psychedelic drugs
li·ku·ta \lēˈkütə, (ˈ)lēˈk-\ *n, pl* **ma·ku·ta** \(ˈ)mäˈk-\ [of Niger-Congo origin; prob. akin to obs. Nupe *kuta* stone] **1** : a monetary unit of the Republic of the Congo (Kinshasa) equal to ¹/₁₀₀ zaire — see MONEY table *in the Dict* **2** : a coin
lim·bo \ˈlimˌ(ˌ)bō\ *n* -S [native name in West Indies] : a West Indian acrobatic dance orig. for men that involves bending over backward and passing under a horizontal pole which is lowered slightly for each successive pass
limo \ˈlim-(ˌ)ō\ *n* -S [by shortening] : LIMOUSINE
limp·en \ˈlimpən\ *vi* -ED/-ING/-S [*³limp* + *²-en*] : to become limp ⟨∼*ed* instantly and fell —Carson McCullers⟩
li·nac \ˈlīˌnak\ *n* -S [*linear accelerator*] : LINEAR ACCELERATOR
lin·co·my·cin \ˌliŋkəˈmīsᵊn\ *n* -S [*linco-* (fr. *Streptomyces lincolnensis*, a streptomyces) + *-mycin*] : an antibiotic obtained from an actinomycete (*Streptomyces umbrinus* var. *cyaeoniger*) and found effective esp. against cocci
linear* *adj* : composed of simply drawn lines with little attempt at pictorial representation ⟨∼ script⟩
linear a \-ˈä\ *n, usu cap L&A* : a linear form of writing used in Crete from the 18th to the 15th centuries B.C.
linear alkylate sulfonate *n* : a biodegradable salt of sulfonic acid used in detergents as a surface-active agent
linear b \-ˈbē\ *n, usu cap L&B* : a linear form of writing employing syllabic characters and used at Knossos on Crete and on the Greek mainland from the 15th to the 12th centuries B.C. for documents in the Mycenaean language
line score *n* : a score of a baseball game giving the runs, hits, and errors made by each team
lin·gui·ne \liŋˈgwēnē, -(ˌ)nā\ *n* -S [It, pl. of *linguina*, dim. of *lingua* tongue, fr. L — more at TONGUE] : thin flat pasta
lin·u·ron \ˈlinyəˌrän\ *n* [*lin-* (of unknown origin) + *urea* + *¹-on*] : a selective herbicide used esp. to control weeds in crops of soybeans or carrots
lip·o·tro·pin \ˌlipəˈtrōpən, -lī-\ *n* -S [*lipotropic* + *-in*] : an anterior pituitary hormone believed to function in the mobilization of fatty reserves
lip·pes loop \ˌlipəs- *also* ˈlips-\ *n, usu cap 1st L* [after Jack *Lippes*, 20th cent. Amer. physician] : an S-shaped plastic intrauterine device
litterbag \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* [*¹litter* + *bag*] : a bag used (as in an automobile) for refuse disposal
LM* *abbr* lunar module *herein*
locked–in* *adj* : unable or unwilling to shift invested funds because of the tax effect of realizing capital gains
logic* *n* : the fundamental principles and applications of truth tables and the interconnection of circuit elements and gating necessary for arithmetical computation in a computer
log·nor·mal \(ˈ)=ˈ=ˌ=\ *adj* [*⁴log* + *normal*] : of, relating to, or being a logarithmic function (as the logarithm of a statistical variable or distribution) that has a normal distribution
long–term* *adj* : generated by assets held for longer than six months ⟨*long-term* capital gains⟩
look–in* *n* : a quick pass in football to a receiver running diagonally toward the center of the field
lookup \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* -S [*look up*] : the process or an instance of looking something up; *esp* : the process of matching by computer the words of a text against material stored in memory
loop* *n* : INTRAUTERINE DEVICE *herein; esp* : LIPPES LOOP *herein*
lo·rentz force \ˌlȯrˌen(t)s-, ˌlȯr\ *n, usu cap L* [after Hendrik A. *Lorentz* †1928 Du. physicist] : the force exerted on a moving charged particle in an electric and magnetic field
lowball \ˈ=ˌ=\ *vt* : to give (a customer) a deceptively low cost estimate that one has no intention of honoring
low–rise \ˈ=ˈ=\ *adj* : being one or two stories and not equipped with elevators ⟨a *low-rise* classroom building⟩
LPN *abbr* licensed practical nurse
Lr *symbol* lawrencium *herein*
LSD \ˌeˌlesˈdē\ *n* : LYSERGIC ACID DIETHYLAMIDE
lunar excursion module *or* **lunar module** *n* : a space vehicle module designed to carry astronauts from the command module to the surface of the moon and back
lu·nar·naut \ˈlünərˌnȯt, -nät\ *n* -S [*lunar* + *astronaut*] : an astronaut who explores the moon
ly·ase \ˈlīˌās, -āz\ *n* -S [Gk *lyein* to loosen, release + E *-ase* — more at LOSE] : an enzyme (as a decarboxylase) that forms double bonds by removing groups from a substrate other than by hydrolysis or that adds groups to double bonds
lym·phan·gi·og·ra·phy \ˌlimˌfanjēˈägrəfē\ *n* -ES [*lymphangi-* + *-graphy*] : LYMPHOGRAPHY *herein* — **lym·phan·gio·gram** \limˈfanjēəˌgram\ *n* -S — **lym·phan·gio·graph·ic** \=ˌ=əˈgrafik, ˌ=ˌ=ˈ=\ *adj*
lym·phog·ra·phy \limˈfägrəfē\ *n* -ES [*lymph-* + *-graphy*] : X-ray depiction of lymph vessels and nodes after use of a radiopaque material — **lym·pho·gram** \ˈlim(p)fəˌgram\ *n* -S — **lym·pho·graph·ic** \ˌ=ˌ=ˈgrafik\ *adj*
ly·sog·e·ny \līˈsäjənē\ *n* -ES [*lys-* + *-geny*] : the carrying and transmitting of an inactive phage by a bacterium to its descendants — **ly·sog·e·ni·za·tion** \-ˌsäjənəˈzāshən,-ˌnīˈz-\ *n* -S
ly·so·some \ˈlīsəˌsōm\ *n* -S [ISV *lys-* + *³-some;* orig. formed in F] : a cellular organelle held to be the seat of various hydrolytic enzymes — **ly·so·som·al** \ˌlīsəˈsōməl\ *adj*
ly·so·staph·in \ˌlīsəˈstafən\ *n* -S [*lys-* + *staph* + *-in*] : an enzyme obtained from a strain of staphylococcus that is an effective antibiotic against other staphylococci
mac·chi·net·ta \ˌmäkəˈnetə\ *n* -S [It *macchinetta* (*da caffè*) coffee machine, fr. dim. of *macchina* machine, fr. L *machina* — more at MACHINE] : a drip-coffee maker in which water is heated in the upper part which is then inverted to allow the water to run through the coffee into the lower part
mace \ˈmās\ *vt* -ED/-ING/-S [fr. *Mace*, a trademark] : to attack with a temporarily disabling liquid that is usu. sprayed in the face and that causes tears, dizziness, confusion, immobilization, and sometimes nausea
machine language *n* **1** : information recorded in a form usable by a machine (as a computer) **2** : numbers or instructions expressed in a form directly usable by a computer
machine translation *n* : automatic translation from one language to another
ma·chis·mo \mäˈchēzˌ(ˌ)mō\ *n* -S [MexSp, fr. Sp *macho* male (fr. L *masculus*) + *-ismo* -ism — more at MALE] : a strong sense of masculine pride : an exaggerated awareness and assertion of masculinity
mac·ro·aggregate \ˌmakrōˈ+\ *n* [*macr-* + *aggregate*] : a relatively large particle (as of soil or serum albumin) — **mac·ro·aggregated** \"+\ *adj*
macrobiotic* *adj* : of, relating to, or being an extremely restricted diet (as one containing chiefly whole grains) that is held to promote health and well-being even though deficient in essential nutrients
mac·ro·globulin \ˌmakrōˈ+\ *n* [ISV *macr-* + *globulin*] : a highly polymerized globulin of high molecular weight
mac·ro·glob·u·lin·emia \ˌmakrōˌglōbyəlᵊnˈēmēə\ *n* -S [NL, fr. ISV *macroglobulin* + NL *-emia*] : a disorder characterized by increased blood serum viscosity and by macroglobulins in the serum — **mac·ro·glob·u·lin·emic** \-nēmik\ *adj*
mac·ro·lide \ˈmakrəˌlīd\ *n* -S [*macro*cyclic + lactone + *-ide*] : any of several antibiotics that contain a lactone ring and are produced by actinomycetes of the genus *Streptomyces*
mac·ro·organism \ˌmakrōˈ+\ *n* [*macr-* + *organism*] : an organism large enough to be seen by the normal unaided human eye — compare MICROORGANISM *in the Dict*
mafia* *n, often cap* : a group of people of similar interests or backgrounds prominent in a particular field or enterprise : CLIQUE ⟨representation of what the inflamed imaginations . . . see as the homosexual *Mafia* of hairdressers, dress designers and decorators —Elenore Lester⟩
ma·fi·o·so \ˌmäfēˈō(ˌ)sō, -af-, -)zō\ *n, pl* **mafio·si** \-sē, -zē\ *usu cap* [It, fr. *Mafia* + *-oso* -ous, fr. L *-osus*] : a member of the Mafia
magnetic bottle *n* : a magnetic field for confining plasma for experiments in nuclear fusion
magnetic core *n* **1** : CORE li **2** : a magnetic material in the shape of a doughnut that is strung on wires through which electric current is pulsed, that is capable of assuming and retaining one or more conditions of magnetization, and that is used esp. in computer memories
mag·ne·to·cardiograph \magˌnēdəˈō, -ed-- +\ *n* [*magnet-* + *cardiograph*] : an instrument for recording the changes in the magnetic field around the heart that is used to supplement information given by an electrocardiograph — **mag·ne·to·cardiogram** \"+\ *n* — **mag·ne·to·cardiographic** \"+\ *adj*
mag·ne·to·gas·dy·nam·ics \magˌnēdəˌgasdīˈnamiks, -ed-- *sometimes* -sdəˈn-\ *n pl but sing in constr* [*magnet-* + *gas* + *dynamics*] : MAGNETOHYDRODYNAMICS — **mag·ne·to·gas·dy·nam·ic** \-ik\ *adj*
mag·ne·to·pause \magˈnēdəˌpȯz, -ed--\ *n* [*magneto*sphere (herein) + *pause*] : the outer boundary of a magnetosphere
mag·ne·to·plas·ma·dy·nam·ic \magˌnēdəˌplazməˈdīˌnamik, -ed-- *sometimes* -mədə\ *adj* [*magnet-* + *plasma* + *dynamic*] : MAGNETOHYDRODYNAMIC — **mag·ne·to·plas·ma·dy·nam·ics** \-ks\ *n*
mag·ne·to·sphere \magˈnēdəˌ, -edə +\ *n* [*magnet-* + *sphere*] **1** : a region of the upper atmosphere that surrounds the earth, extends out for thousands of miles, and is dominated by the earth's magnetic field so that charged particles are trapped in it **2** : a region that surrounds a celestial body (as a planet) and is comparable to the earth's magnetosphere in trapping charged particles — **mag·ne·to·spheric** \ˌ=ˈ== +\ *adj*
mail cover *n* : a postal monitoring and recording of information (as return address and postmark) on all mail going to a designated addressee
majolica* *n* : a 19th century earthenware modeled in naturalistic shapes and glazed in bright colors
major–medical \ˌ=ˌ=ˈ=\ *adj* : of, relating to, or being a form of insurance designed to pay all or part of the medical bills of major illnesses usu. after deduction of a fixed initial sum
make* *vb* — **make it** **1** : to be successful ⟨trying to *make it* as writer-in-residence at the university —Gershon Legman⟩ **2** : to have sexual intercourse ⟨one young couple who would . . . *make it* in a rear seat —Thomas Pynchon⟩
makuta *pl of* LIKUTA *herein*
mal·i·bu board \ˈmaləˌbü-\ *n, usu cap M* [after *Malibu* Beach, California] : a lightweight surfboard 9 to 10 feet long with a round nose, square tail, and slightly convex bottom
man* *n, usu cap* **1** : POLICE ⟨when I heard the siren, I knew it was the *Man* —*Amer. Speech*⟩ **2** : the white establishment : white society ⟨surprise that any black man . . . should take on so about The *Man* —Peter Goldman⟩
man·eb \ˈmaˌneb\ *n* -S [*man*ganese + *e*thylene + *bis-*] : a carbamate agricultural fungicide
ma·ni·cot·ti \ˌmanəˈkätē, ˌmänəˈkȯtē\ *n, pl* **manicotti** [It, lit., muff, fr. *manica* sleeve, fr. L — more at MANCHE] : tubular pasta shells stuffed with ricotta
manifold* *n* **1** : a space topologically equivalent to a sphere in euclidean space **2** : an abstract generalization of a surface **3** : a set of mathematical elements having properties common to various elementary configurations
-man·ship \manˌship\ *n suffix* -S [*sportsmanship*] : the art or practice of maneuvering to gain a tactical advantage ⟨games*manship*⟩
mao \ˈmau\ *adj, usu cap* [after *Mao* Tse-tung *b*1893 Chin. communist leader] : having a long narrow cut and a mandarin collar — usu. used of a jacket
mao·ism \ˈmauˌizəm\ *n -s usu cap* [*Mao* Tse-tung + E *-ism*] : the theory and practice of Marxism-Leninism developed in China chiefly by Mao Tse-tung — **mao·ist** \ˈmaůəst\ *n or adj, usu cap*
mar·ag·ing steel \ˈmärˌājiŋ-\ *n* [*mar*tensite + *aging* + *steel*] : a strong tough low-carbon martensitic steel which contains up to 25 percent nickel and in which hardening precipitates are formed by aging
mar·ga·ri·ta \ˌmärgəˈrēdəə\ *n* -S [MexSp, prob. fr. the name *Margarita* Margaret] : a cocktail consisting of tequila, lime or lemon juice, and an orange-flavored liqueur
mari·culture \ˈmarəˌ+\ *n* [*mari-* + *culture*] : the cultivation of marine organisms by exploiting their natural environment
mar·i·na·ra \ˌmarəˈnärə\ *adj* [It *(alla)marinara* in sailor style, fr. *marinara*, fem. of *marinaro*, of sailors, fr. *marino* marine — more at MARINATE] : made with tomatoes, onion, garlic, and spices ⟨∼ sauce⟩
mar·ko·vi·an \märˈkōvēən\ *adj, usu cap* [*Markov* (*process*) + E *-ian*] : of, relating to, or resembling a Markov process esp. by having probabilities defined in terms of transition from the possible existing states to other states
mar·kov process *also* **mar·koff process** \ˈmärˌkȯf-\ *n, usu cap M* [after Andrei Andreevich *Markov* †1922 Russ. mathematician] : a stochastic process (as Brownian movement or a random walk) in which the probabilities of occurrence of various future states depend only on the present state of the system or on the immediately preceding state and not on the path by which the present state was achieved
mary greg·o·ry \ˈgreg(ə)rē, -rāg-, -ri\ *n, usu cap M & G* [perh. after *Mary Gregory fl* 1887 Am. glass painter] : colored glassware of a popular 19th century style marked by white enamel decoration usu. including children
mas·con \ˈmasˌkän\ *n* -S [*²mass* + *con*centration] : one of the concentrations of large mass under the surface of the moon's maria whose gravitational effect is held to cause perturbations of the paths of spacecraft orbiting the moon
mass·cult \ˈmasˌkəlt\ *n* [*mass culture*] : the artistic and intellectual culture associated with and disseminated through the mass media : mass culture
mass·less \ˈmaslȧs, ˈmaas-, ˈmais- *sometimes* ˈmäs-\ *adj* [*²mass* + *-less*] : having no mass — **mass·less·ness** *n* -ES
matching funds *n pl* : funds provided (as by a government) that match funds provided by the recipient
mathematical biology *n* : a branch of knowledge concerned with the application of mathematics to the solution of problems in theoretical biology esp. by the construction of mathematical models — **mathematical biologist** *n*
matrix algebra *n* : generalized algebra that deals with the operations and relations among matrices
matrix sentence *n* : that one of a pair of sentences joined by means of a transformation that keeps its essential external structure and syntactic status ⟨in "the book that I want is gone", "the book is gone" is the *matrix sentence*⟩
ma·ven *or* **ma·vin** *or* **may·vin** \ˈmāvən\ *n* -S [Yiddish, fr. L Heb *mēbhīn*, perh. fr. Heb *mēbhī* one who has brought in] : one who is experienced or knowledgeable : EXPERT
maxi \ˈmaksē\ *n* -S [*maxi-* (herein)] : a long skirt or coat that usu. extends to the ankle — called also respectively *maxiskirt*, *maxicoat*
maxi- \ˈmaksē\ *comb form* [fr. *maximum*, after E *minimum*: *mini-* (herein)] **1** : extra long ⟨*maxi*-dress⟩ ⟨*maxi*-kilt⟩ **2** : extra large ⟨*maxi*-sculpture⟩ ⟨*maxi*-problems⟩
mbi·ra \emˈbirə\ *n* -S [native word in southern Africa; of Bantu origin] : ZANZA
mechanical bank *also* **mechanical*** *n* : a toy bank in which insertion of a coin activates a mechanism that goes through some amusing or absurd routine
mech·a·no·receptor \ˌmekəˌnō-\ *n* [*mechan-* + *receptor*] : a neural end organ (as a tactile receptor) that responds to a mechanical stimulus (as a change in pressure) — **mech·a·no·reception** \"+\ *n* — **mech·a·no·receptive** \"+\ *adj*
mech·lor·eth·a·mine \ˌme,klōrˈethəˌmēn, -lȯr-, -ˌmən\ *n* [*methyl* + *chloroethyl* + *amine*] : a nitrogen mustard used as an insect chemosterilant, as a war gas, and in palliative treatment of some neoplastic diseases
media mix *n* : a presentation (as in a theater) in which several media (as films, tapes, and slides) are employed simultaneously
med·ic·aid \ˈmedəˌkād, -dē-\ *n* [*medical* + *aid*] : a program of medical aid designed for those unable to afford regular medical service and financed by the state and federal governments
medi·care \ˈmedə, -dē +\ *n* [blend of *medical* and *care*] : a government program of medical care esp. for the aged
me·dul·lin \məˈdələn, me-; ˈmedᵊl-, ˈmejəl-\ *n* -S [NL *medulla* + E *-in*; fr. its isolation from the medulla of the kidney] : a renal prostaglandin effective in reducing blood pressure
mef·e·nam·ic acid \ˌmefəˌnamik-\ *n* [*dimethyl* + *fen-* (by shortening and alter. fr. *phenyl*) + *aminobenzoic acid*] : a crystalline compound $C_{15}H_{15}NO_2$ used esp. to relieve pain or inflammation
mega·buck \ˈmegə +\ *n* [*mega-* + *¹buck*] : one million dollars
mega·death \"+\ *n* [*mega-* + *death*] : one million deaths — used as a unit in reference to atomic warfare
mega·rad \"+\ *n* [*mega-* + *³rad*] : one million rads
mega·unit \"+\ *n* [*mega-* + *unit*] : one million units
mela·to·nin \ˌmeləˈtōnən\ *n* -S [prob. fr. *melanocyte* + *serotonin;* fr. its power to lighten melanocytes] : a substance produced in the pineal body that plays a role in sexual development and maturation
memory trace *n* : an alteration within the central nervous system that is held to constitute the physical basis of learning
men·a·zon \ˈmenəˌzän\ *n* -S [perh. fr. *dimethyl* + *diamino-* + *triazine* + *thionate*] : an organophosphate insecticide used esp. against aphids, plant bugs, and cattle insects
meno·taxis \ˌmenə+\ *n* [NL, fr. *²meno-* + *taxis*] : a taxis involving a constant reaction (as movement at a constant angle to a light source) but not a simple movement toward or away from the directing stimulus
me·rid·ic \məˈridik\ *adj* [Gk *merid-*, *meris* part + E *-ic;* akin to Gk *meros* part — more at MERIT] : having some but not all active constituents chemically defined ⟨insects reared on a ∼ diet⟩ — compare HOLIDIC, OLIGIDIC *herein*
mer·i·toc·ra·cy \ˌmerəˈtäkrəsē\ *n* -ES [*¹merit* + *-cracy*] **1** : an educational system whereby the talented are chosen and moved ahead on the basis of their achievement (as in competitive examinations) **2** : leadership by the talented — **mer·it·o·crat·ic** \ˌmerədəˈkrad·ik\ *adj*
meson* *n* : any of a group of strongly interacting particles that can be created and annihilated in arbitrary numbers and that obey the Bose-Einstein statistics
meso·pelagic \ˌmeˌzō, ˌmēˌ, ˌsō-+\ *adj* [*mes-* + *pelagic*] : of or relating to oceanic depths from about 600 feet to 3000 feet
mesosome* *n* : a cell organelle that appears in electron micrographs as an invagination of the plasma membrane and is a site of localization of respiratory enzymes
messenger RNA \-ˌä,reˈnā\ *n* -S : a ribonucleic acid that carries the code for a protein from the nuclear deoxyribonucleic acid to the ribosome and acts as a template for the formation of that protein — compare TRANSFER RNA *herein*
met·al·lid·ing \ˈmedᵊlˌīdiŋ, -etᵊl-\ *n* -S [*metall-* + *-iding* (prob. fr. *¹-ide* + *³-ing*)] : the process of diffusing atoms of a metal or metalloid into the surface of a metal by electrolysis in order to impart a desired surface property (as hardness) to the bulk metal
me·tal·lo·enzyme \məˈtalōˌ+\ *n* [*metall-* + *enzyme*] : an enzyme consisting of a protein linked with a specific metal
metameric* *adj* : of, relating to, or being color metamers ⟨a ∼ pair⟩ — **metamerism*** *n*
me·te·or·oi·dal \ˌmēdē,ōˈrȯidᵊl\ *adj* [*meteoroid* + *-al*] : of or relating to meteoroids
me·tepa \mə, (ˈ)me+\ *n* -s [*m*ethyl + *tepa* (herein)] : an insect chemosterilant that is a methyl derivative of tepa
meter maid *n* : a female member of a police force who is assigned to write tickets for parking violations
meth·i·cil·lin \ˌmethəˈsilən\ *n* -S [*meth-* + *penicillin*] : a synthetic penicillin esp. effective against penicillinase-producing staphylococci
method* *n, usu cap* : a dramatic technique by which an actor seeks to gain complete identification with the inner personality of the character being portrayed so that all thoughts, feelings, and actions expressed in the portrayal are those of the character and not of the actor
meth·o·trex·ate \ˌmethəˈtrekˌsāt, -ˌsət\ *n* -S [*meth-* + *trex-* (of unknown origin) + *-ate*] : a drug that is a folic acid analogue and antimetabolite used as an anticancer drug
meths \ˈmeths\ *n pl but sing in constr* [contr. of *methylated spirits*] *Brit* : METHYLATED SPIRIT
met·ri·cate \ˈmetrəˌkāt\ *vt* -ED/-ING/-S [*²metric* + *⁴-ate*] *Brit* : METRICIZE *herein*
met·ri·ca·tion \ˌmetrəˈkāshən\ *n* -S [*²metric* + *-ation*] : the act or process of metricizing
metricize* *vt* [*²metric* + *-ize*] : to change into or express in the metric system
met·ro \ˈmeˌ(ˌ)trō\ *n* -S [short for *metropolitan government*] : a regional government having authority over a city and outlying suburbs or towns
me·tyr·a·pone \məˈtirəˌpōn\ *n* -S [perh. fr. *methyl* + *-rapone* (alter. of *propanone*)] : a metabolic hormone that inhibits biosynthesis of cortisol and is used to test for normal functioning of the hypothalamus and pituitary
mi·chae·lis constant \mīˌkālə-, mə-\ *n, usu cap M* [after Leonor *Michaelis* †1949 Am. biochemist] : a constant that is a measure of the kinetics of an enzyme reaction and that is equivalent to the concentration of substrate at which the reaction takes place at one half its maximum velocity
mickey–mouse \ˌmikēˈmaůs, -ki-\ *vt* -ED/-ING/-S [fr. *Mickey Mouse*, a trademark] : to provide (a film) with accompanying music that closely describes or mimics the action
mickey mouse *adj, usu cap both Ms* [fr. *Mickey Mouse*, cartoon character — more at ²MICKEY] : lacking importance or serious meaning : INSIGNIFICANT ⟨switch to *Mickey Mouse* courses, where you don't work too hard —Willie Cager⟩
micro·body \ˈmīkrōˌ+\ *n* [*micr-* + *body*] : a subcellular organelle demonstrable by electron microscopy that is a site of localization of enzymes in the cell
mi·cro·capsule \ˌmīkrōˈ+\ *n* [*micr-* + *capsule*] : a tiny capsule containing material (as a medicine) that is released when the capsule is broken, melted, or dissolved
mi·cro·card \ˈmīkrōˌ+\ *vb* -ED/-ING/-S [fr. *Microcard*, a trademark] *vt* : to reproduce (as a book) on a Microcard card or a series of such cards ∼ *vi* : to use Microcard cards in reproducing printed matter
mi·cro·circuit \"+,\ *n* [*micr-* + *circuit*] : a compact electronic circuit consisting of elements of small size — **mi·cro·circuitry** \" +\ *n*
mi·cro·circulation \ˌmīkrōˈ+\ *n* [*micr-* + *circulation*] : the part of the circulatory system made up of very fine channels (as capillaries or venules) — **mi·cro·circulatory** \"+\ *adj*
mi·cro·culture \ˈmīkrōˌ+,\ *n* [*micr-* + *culture*] **1** : the culture of a small group of human beings with limited perspective **2** : a microscopic culture of cells or organisms — **mi·cro·cultural** \ˌmīkrōˈ+\ *adj*
mi·cro·distribution \ˌmīkrōˈ+\ *n* [*micr-* + *distribution*] : the precise distribution of one or more kinds of organisms in a microhabitat or in part of an ecosystem ⟨∼ of soil mites⟩
mi·cro·dot \ˈmīkrōˌ+,\ *n* [*micr-* + *dot*] : a photographic reproduction of printed matter reduced to the size of a dot for ease or security of transmittal
mi·cro·ecology \ˌmīkrō +\ *n* [*micr-* + *ecology*] : ecology of all or part of a small community (as a microhabitat or a housing development) — **mi·cro·ecological** \" +\ *adj*

microelectrode* *n* : a small electrode inserted in a living biological cell or tissue in studying its electrical characteristics
mi·cro·electronics \ˌmīkrō+\ *n pl but sing in constr* [*micr-* + *electronics*] : a branch of electronics that deals with the miniaturization of electronic circuits and components — **mi·cro·electronic** \"+\ *adj*
mi·cro·encapsulate \ˌmīkrō+\ *vt* [*micr-* + *encapsulate*] : to enclose a small amount of (a substance) in a microcapsule
microform* *n* **1** : MICROCOPY **2** : matter reproduced in microform
mi·cro·image \ˈmīkrō-ˌ\ *n* [*micr-* + *image*] : an image (as on a microfilm) that is of greatly reduced size ⟨~s of documents⟩
mi·cro·machining \ˌmīkrō+\ *n* [*micr-* + *machining*, gerund of *²machine*] : the removing (as in drilling, planing, or shaping) of small amounts of metal by action other than that of a sharp-edged tool ⟨~ with an electron beam⟩
micrometeorite* *n* : a meteoritic particle of very small size — **mi·cro·meteoritic** \ˌmīkrō+\ *adj*
mi·cro·meteoroid \ˌmīkrō+\ *n* [*micr-* + *meteoroid*] : MICROMETEORITE *herein*
mi·cro·miniature \"+\ *adj* [*micr-* + *miniature*] **1** : MICROMINIATURIZED *herein* **2** : suitable for use with microminiaturized parts
mi·cro·miniaturization \"+\ *n* [*micr-* + *miniaturization*] : the process of producing microminiaturized things
mi·cro·miniaturized \"+\ *adj* [*micr-* + *miniaturized*] : reduced to or produced in a very small size and esp. in a size smaller than one considered miniature ⟨~ electronic circuit⟩
mi·cro·module \"+\ *n* [*micr-* + *module*] : a miniaturized module
mi·cro·morphology \"+\ *n* [*micr-* + *morphology*] **1** : MICROSTRUCTURE — used esp. with reference to soils **2** : the study of minute morphological detail esp. by electron microscopy — **mi·cro·morphologic** \"+\ *adj* — **mi·cro·morphological** \"+\ *adj* — **mi·cro·morphologically** \"+\ *adv*
mi·cro·population \"+\ *n* [*micr-* + *population*] **1** : a population of microorganisms **2** : the population of organisms within a small area
mi·cro·probe \ˈmīkrə+\ *n* [*micr-* + *probe*] : a device for microanalysis that operates by exciting radiation in a minute area or volume of material so that the composition may be determined by means of the emission spectrum
mi·cro·programming \ˌmīkrō+\ *n* [*micro-* + *programming*, gerund of *²program*] : the use of data stored in memory rather than specialized circuits for controlling a device (as a computer) — **mi·cro·program** \"+\ *n or vt*
mi·cro·state \ˈmīkrō-ˌ\ *n* [*micr-* + *state*] : a newly independent nation that is extremely small in area and population and poor in resources
mi·cro·surgery \ˌmīkrō+\ *n* [*micr-* + *surgery*] : minute dissection or manipulation (as by micromanipulator or laser beam) of living structures (as cells) for surgical or experimental purposes — **mi·cro·surgical** \"+\ *adj*
mi·cro·tubule \"+\ *n* [*micr-* + *tubule*] : any of the minute tubular or possibly rodlike structures that are widely distributed in protoplasm, are made up of longitudinal fibrils, and are sometimes held to be specifically related to protoplasmic motility — **mi·cro·tubular** \"+\ *adj*
mi·cro·vascular \"+\ *adj* [*micr-* + *vascular*] : of, relating to, or constituting the part of the circulatory system made up of minute vessels (as venules or capillaries) that average less than 0.3 millimeters in diameter — **mi·cro·vasculature** \"+\ *n*
mi·cro·villus \"+\ *n* [NL, fr. *micr-* + *villus*] : a microscopic projection of a tissue, a cell, or a cell organelle; *esp* : one of the fingerlike outward projections of some cell surfaces — **mi·cro·vil·lar** \ˌ=ˈvilər\ *adj* — **mi·cro·vil·lous** \-ləs\ *adj*
midcourse \ˈ=ˌ=\ *adj* [*midcourse*, *n.*, fr. *¹mid* + *course*] : being or relating to the part of a course (as of spacecraft) that is between the initial and final phases — **midcourse** \ˈ=ˈ=\ *n*
mid·cult \ˈmidˌkəlt\ *n* -s [*mid*dlebrow *cult*ure] : the artistic and intellectual culture that is neither highbrow culture nor lowbrow culture : middlebrow culture
middle america *n, often cap M& usu cap A* **1** : the midwestern section of the U.S. **2** : the middle-class segment of the U.S. population — **middle american** *n, cap M&A*
midi \ˈmidē\ *n* -s [*¹mid* + *-i* (as in *mini* — herein)] : a dress, skirt, or coat that usu. extends to the mid-calf — called also respectively *midi dress, midi skirt, midi coat*
mim·eo \ˈmimēˌō\ *n* -s [by shortening fr. *mimeographed*] : a mimeographed publication
mim–mem \ˈmim'mem\ *adj* [*mim*icry + *mem*orization] : of, relating to, or being a drill pattern in which students repeat usu. in chorus a foreign language phrase supplied by their instructor
mind–expanding \ˈ=ˌ=ˌ=\ *adj* : PSYCHEDELIC 1a *herein*
mini \ˈminē\ *n* -s [by shortening] **1** : MINICAR **2** : a short skirt or dress that usu. extends to the mid-thigh — called also respectively *miniskirt* or *minidress*
mini- \ˈminē\ *comb form* [*miniature*] : very small : miniature
minibike \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* [*mini-* (herein) + *bike*] : a small one-passenger motorcycle having a low frame and elevated handlebars
minibus \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* [*mini-* (herein) + *bus*] : a small bus for comparatively short trips
minicab \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* [*mini-* (herein) + *cab*] : a very small car used as a taxicab
minicomputer \ˌ=ˌ=ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* [*mini-* (herein) + *computer*] : a small comparatively inexpensive computer
minimal* *adj, often cap* : of, relating to, or being minimal art ⟨~ aluminum pieces —Grace H. Glueck⟩
minimal art *n* : abstract art (as painting or sculpture) consisting primarily of simple geometric forms executed in an impersonal style — **minimal artist** *n*
minimalist* *n* : MINIMAL ARTIST *herein*
mini·max \ˈminəˌmaks, -nēˌm-\ *n* -ES [*mini*mum + *max*imum] : the minimum of a set of maxima; *esp* : the smallest of a set of maximum possible losses each of which occurs in the most unfavorable outcome of a strategy followed by a participant in a situation governed by the theory of games
minimax principle *n* : a principle of choice for a decision problem: one should choose the action which minimizes the loss that he stands to suffer even under the worst circumstances
minimax theorem *n* : a theorem in the theory of games: the lowest maximum expected loss equals the highest minimum expected gain
mini-pig \ˈ=ˌpig\ *n* [*mini-* (herein) + *pig*] : a miniature pig bred for use in scientific research
mini-ski \ˈminēˌ+\ *n* [*mini-* (herein) + *ski*] **1** : a ski of less than normal length held to make skiing easier (as for beginners) **2** : a miniature ski worn by a skibobber
mini-state \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* -s [*mini-* (herein) + *state*] : a small newly independent nation
mini-sub \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* -s [*mini-* (herein) + *·⁴sub*] : a very small submarine used esp. in research (as on the ocean bottom)
minnesota multiphasic personality inventory *also* **minnesota multiphasic test** *n, usu cap both Ms & P & I* [fr. the University of *Minnesota*, where it was developed] : a test of personal and social adjustment based on a complex scaling of the answers to an elaborate true or false test
MIRV \ˈmərv\ *n* -s [*m*ultiple *i*ndependently targeted *r*eentry *v*ehicle] : a missile with two or more warheads designed to reenter the atmosphere on the way to separate enemy targets; *also* : any of the warheads of such a missile
mis·communication \"+\ *n* [*¹mis-* + *communication*] : failure to communicate clearly
mis·orient \"+\ *vt* [*¹mis-* + *orient*] : to orient improperly or incorrectly — **mis·orientation** \"+\ *n*
mist* *n* : a drink of alcoholic liquor (as Scotch) served over cracked ice and garnished with a twist of lemon peel
mi·to·gen \ˈmīdˌəjən\ *n* -s [*mit-* + *-gen*] : a substance that induces mitosis — **mi·to·gen·ic** \ˌmīdˌəˈjenik\ *adj* — **mi·to·ge·nic·i·ty** \ˌmīdˌəjəˈnisədˌē\ *n* -ES
mi·to·my·cin \ˌmīdˌəˈmīsᵊn\ *n* -S [prob. fr. ISV *mit-* + *-mycin*] : an antibiotic produced by a Japanese streptomyces that in one form (**mitomycin C**) acts directly on deoxyribonucleic acid and shows promise as an anticancer agent
mito·spore \ˈmīdˌə+ˌ\ *n* [*mit-* + *spore*] : a haploid or diploid spore produced by mitosis
mix* *n* : MIXER 2b
mixed–media \ˈ=ˈ=ˌ=\ *adj* [*mixed* + *media*, pl. of *medium*] : MULTIMEDIA *herein*
mixed media *n* [*mixed-media, adj* (herein)] **1** : a work of art executed in more than one medium **2** : MULTIMEDIA *herein*
¹mod \ˈmädˌ\ *adj, often cap* [short for *modern*] : MODERN; *esp* : bold, free, and unconventional in style or dress
²mod *n* -s *often cap* : one who wears mod clothes
model* *n* : a system of postulates, data, and inferences presented as a mathematical description of an entity or state of affairs ⟨a mathematical ~ of the physical world⟩
mo·dem \ˈmōˌdem\ *n* -s [*mo*dulator + *dem*odulator] : a device that converts signals from one form to a form compatible with another kind of equipment ⟨a ~ for transmitting computer data over telephone lines⟩
modular arithmetic *n* : arithmetic that deals with whole numbers where the numbers are replaced by their remainders after division by a fixed number ⟨in a *modular arithmetic* with modulus 5, 3 multiplied by 4 would be 2⟩
mod·u·lar·ized \ˈmäjələˌrīzdˌ\ *adj* [*modular* + *-ize* + *-ed*] : constructed of modules ⟨~ electronic equipment⟩
module* *n* **1** : any in a series of standardized units for use together **2** : an assembly of components that are packaged or mounted together and constitute a functional unit for an electronic or mechanical system ⟨a ~ for a computer⟩ **3** : an independent unit that constitutes a part of the total structure of a space vehicle ⟨a propulsion ~⟩
modulus* *n* : the length of the radius vector from the origin to the point representing the number in the complex plane
mo·gul \ˈmōgəlˌ\ *n* -s [prob. of Scand origin; akin to Norw dial. *muge* heap, pile, fr. ON *mūgi* — more at MOW] : a bump in a ski run
mois·tur·ize \ˈmȯischəˌrīzˌ\ *vt* -ED/-ING/-S [*moisture* + *-ize*] : to add moisture to ⟨~ the air⟩ — **mois·tur·iz·er** *n* -S
moldy fig *n* : a devotee of traditional jazz
moment of truth **1** : the final sword thrust in a bullfight **2** : a moment of crisis on whose outcome much or everything depends ⟨the lift-off of a . . . space vehicle with three men aboard is an awesome *moment of truth* —R.A.Petrone⟩
¹mono \ˈmäˌ(ˌ)nō, ˈmōˌ(ˌ)nō-\ *adj* [by shortening] : MONOPHONIC 3 ⟨a ~ phonograph record⟩
²mono *n* -s **1** : a mono phonograph record **2** : mono reproduction
³mono *n* -s [by shortening] : MONONUCLEOSIS
monoamine* *n* : PRIMARY AMINE; *esp* : one (as serotonin) that is functionally important in neural transmission
mono·am·i·ner·gic \ˌmänōˌaməˈnərjik, ˌmōn-\ *adj* [*monoamine* (herein) + *erg-* + *-ic*] : of, relating to, or being nervous mechanisms in which monoamines play a role in nerve impulse transmissions
monoamine oxidase *n* : an enzyme that deaminates primary amines oxidatively
monochrome* *adj* : BLACK-AND-WHITE 4b
mono·contaminate \ˌmäˌ(ˌ)nō, ˌmō(ˌ)-\ *vt* [*mon-* + *contaminate*] : to infect (a germ-free organism) with one kind of pathogen — **mono·contamination** \"+\ *n*
mono·functional \ˌmäˌ(ˌ)nō, ˌmō(ˌ)-, -ˌnə-\ *adj* [*mon-* + *functional*] : of, relating to, or being a compound with one highly reactive site in the molecule (as in polymerization)
monolayer* *n* : a single continuous layer of cells
monolithic* *adj* **1** : formed from a single crystal ⟨a ~ silicon chip⟩ **2** : produced in or on a monolithic chip ⟨a ~ circuit⟩ **3** : consisting of or utilizing a monolithic circuit or circuits
mono·pole \ˈmänəˌpōl, ˈmōn-\ *n* -s [*mon-* + *⁴pole*] **1** : a single positive or negative electrical charge; *also* : a hypothetical north or south magnetic pole existing alone **2** : a radio antenna in the form of a single often straight radiating element
mono·sexual \ˌmäˌ(ˌ)nō, ˌmō(ˌ)-\ *adj* [*mon-* + *sexual*] : of, relating to, or intended for one sex only ⟨~ schools⟩: **a** : male or female rather than bisexual **b** : composed of individuals of one sex — **mono·sexuality** \"+\ *n*
montagnard* *n, often cap* : a member of a people inhabiting a highland region in southern Vietnam bordering on Cambodia — **montagnard** *adj, often cap*
mon·te car·lo method \ˌmäntēˈkärˌ(ˌ)lō-, -tə́ˈk-\ *n, usu cap 1st M&C* [fr. *Monte Carlo*, Monaco, city noted for its gambling casino] : a procedure that involves the use of sampling techniques based on probabilities to approximate the solution of mathematical or physical problems
mon·uron \ˈmänyəˌrän, ˈmōn-\ *n* -s [*mon-* + *ur*ea + *¹-on*] : a persistent herbicide used esp. to control mixed weeds
mooncraft \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* [*moon* + *craft*] : MOONSHIP *herein*
moon·fall \ˈmünˌfȯl\ *n* [*moon* + *-fall* (as in *landfall*)] : a landing on the moon
moonflight \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* [*moon* + *flight*] : a flight to the moon
moonport \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* [*moon* + *¹port*] : a place on earth equipped for sending spacecraft to the moon
moon·ship \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* [*¹moon* + *¹ship*] : a spacecraft for travel to the moon
moonshot \ˈ=ˌ=\ *or* **moon shoot** \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* [*moon* + *¹shot or ²shoot*] : the act or an instance of launching of an unmanned instrumented vehicle on a course to the moon or its vicinity
moonwalk \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* [*¹moon* + *²walk*] : an instance of walking on the moon — **moonwalker** \ˈ=ˌ=ə\ *n*
mo·ped \ˈmōˌped\ *n* -S [G, fr. ISV *mo*tor + *¹-ped*] : a lightweight low-powered motorbike developed by Europeans
morning–after pill \ˌ=ˈ=ə-\ *n* [so called fr. its being taken after rather than before intercourse] : an oral drug that blocks implantation of a fertilized egg in the human uterus and thereby interferes with pregnancy
morph \ˈmȯ(ə)rf, ˈmȯ(ə)f\ *n* -S [Gk *morphē* form — more at FORM] **1** : a local population of a species that consists of interbreeding organisms and is distinguishable from other populations by morphology or behavior though capable of interbreeding with them **2** : a phenotypic variant of a species
mor·pho·physiology \ˌmȯr(ˌ)fō+\ *n* [ISV *morph-* + *physiology*] : a branch of biology that deals with the interrelationships of structure and function — **mor·pho·physiological** \"+\ *adj*
mössbauer effect \ˌmə(r)sˌbaù(ə)r-, ˌməs-,ˌmœs-,ˌmes-\ *n usu cap M* [after Rudolf L. *Mössbauer b*1929 Ger. physicist] : the emission and absorption of gamma rays without recoil by various radioactive nuclei embedded in solids
motor home *n* : an automotive vehicle built on a truck or bus chassis and equipped as a self-contained traveling home
motor inn *n* : a usu. multistory urban motel — called also *motor hotel*
mox·i·bus·tion \ˌmäksəˈbəschən\ *n* -S [NL *moxa* + E *-bustion* (as in *combustion*)] : medical use of a moxa
mri·dan·ga \ˌmrēˈdəŋgə, ˌmərē-\ *or* **mri·dan·gam** \-gəm\ *n* -S [Skt *mṛdaṅga*, prob. of imit. origin] : a drum of India that is shaped like an elongated barrel and has tuned heads of different diameters
mul·ti·centric \ˌməltə, -tē, -ˌtī+\ *adj* [*multi-* + *-centric*] : having multiple centers of origin ⟨a ~ tumor⟩ — **mul·ti·centrically** \"+\ *adv* — **mul·ti·centricity** \"+\ *n* -ES
mul·ti·company \"+\ *n* [*multi-* + *company*] : a large corporate enterprise with interests in two or more distinct industries
multi-hull \"+\ *adj* [*multi-* + *hull*] : having more than one hull ⟨a ~ boat⟩; *also* : of or relating to multihull boats
mul·ti–industry \"+\ *adj* [*multi-* + *industry*] : active in or concerned with two or more separate industries
mul·ti·market \"+\ *adj* [*multi-* + *market*] : MULTI-INDUSTRY *herein*
¹mul·ti·media \"+\ *adj* [*multi-* + *media*, pl. of *¹medium*] : using, involving, or encompassing several media
²mul·ti·media \"+\ *n* : communication or entertainment in which several media are employed esp. simultaneously
mul·ti·national \"+\ *adj* **1a** : of, relating to, or involving more than two nations ⟨a ~ nuclear force⟩ **b** : having divisions in more than two countries ⟨a ~ corporation⟩ **2** : of or relating to more than two nationalities ⟨a ~ society⟩
multiple store *n, chiefly Brit* : CHAIN STORE
multiplet* *n* **1** : any of two or more atomic, molecular, or nuclear quantum states that are usu. close together in energy and that arise from different relative orientations of angular momenta **2** : a group of spectral frequencies arising from transitions to or from a multiplet quantum state
multiplicative identity *n* : an identity element (as 1 in the group of rational numbers without 0 under the operation of multiplication) that in a given mathematical system leaves unchanged any element by which it is multiplied
multiplicative inverse *n* : the reciprocal of a given number
multiplier effect *n* : the effect of a relatively minor factor in precipitating a great change; *esp* : the effect of a relatively small change in one economic factor (as rate of saving or level of consumer credit) in inducing a disproportionate increase or decrease in another (as gross national product)
mul·ti·processing \ˌməltə, -tē, -ˌtī-+\ *n* [*multi-* + *processing*, gerund of *²process*] : the processing of several computer programs at the same time esp. by a computer system with several processors sharing a single memory — **multiprocessor** *n*
mul·ti·programming \"+\ *n* [*multi-* + *programming*] : the simultaneous utilization of interleaved programs in a computer — **mul·ti·programmed** \"+\ *adj*
mul·ti·resistant \"+\ *adj* [*multi-* + *resistant*] : biologically resistant to several toxic agents ⟨~ falciparum malaria⟩ — **mul·ti·resistance** \"+\ *n*
mul·ti·ver·si·ty \ˌməltəˈvərsəd-ē, -tēˈv-, -stēˌ\ *n* -ES [*multi-* + *-versity* (as in *university*)] : a very large university with many component schools, colleges, or divisions, with widely diverse functions (as the teaching of freshmen and the carrying on of advanced research), and with a large staff engaged in activities other than instruction and esp. in administration
mu–meson* *n, usu cap* : MUON *herein*
muon* *n* : an unstable lepton that is common in the cosmic radiation near the earth's surface, has a mass 206.77 times the mass of the electron and an average lifetime of 2.20×10^{-6} second, and exists in negative and positive forms related as particle and antiparticle — **mu·on·ic** \myüˈänik\ *adj*
muslim* *n, usu cap* : BLACK MUSLIM *herein*
mu·ta·ge·nic·i·ty \ˌmyüd-ə-jəˈnisəd-ē\ *n* -ES [*mutagenic* + *-ity*] : the capacity to induce mutations — **mutagenic** *adj*
mu·ta·ro·tase \ˌmyüd-əˈrōˌtāsˌ, -āzˌ\ *n* [*mutaro*tation + *-ase*] : an isomerase found esp. in mammalian tissues that catalyzes the interconversion of anomeric forms of certain sugars
mu·ta·tor gene \ˈmyüˌtād-ə(r)-\ *also* **mutator** \ˈ=ˌ=ə, ˌ=ˈ=ə\ *n* -S [*L mutator* one that changes, fr. *mutatus*, past part. of *mutare* to change + *-or* — more at MISS] : a gene modifier that increases the mutability of one or more genes
MVP *abbr* most valuable player
my·co·toxin \ˌmīkə +\ *n* [*myc-* + *toxin*] : a poisonous substance produced by a fungus and esp. a mold — compare AFLATOXIN *herein* — **my·co·toxic** \"+\ *adj* — **my·co·toxicity** \"+\ *n* — **my·co·toxicosis** \"+\ *n*
my·e·lo·fibrosis \ˌmīəlō+\ *n* [NL, fr. *myel-* + *fibrosis*] : an anemic condition in which bone marrow becomes fibrotic and the liver and spleen usu. exhibit a development of blood cell precursors — **my·e·lo·fibrotic** \"+\ *adj*
my·e·lo·proliferative \"+\ *adj* [*myel-* + *proliferative*] : of, relating to, or being a disorder (as leukemia) marked by excessive proliferation of the blood cell precursors
myo·electric \ˌmīō+\ *also* **myo·electrical** \"+\ *adj* [*my-* + *electric*] : of, relating to, or utilizing electricity generated by muscle — **myo·electrically** \" +\ *adv*
myo·fibrillar \"+\ *adj* [*myofibril* + *-ar*] : of or relating to myofibrils
myo·filament \"+\ *n* [*my-* + *filament*] : a single contractile micelle of a myofibril
mys·te·ri·um \mə'stirēəm, -tēr-\ *n* -S [NL, fr. E *mystery* + NL *-ium*] : a source of fluctuating radio emissions in the Milky Way galaxy held to be excited hydroxyl radicals
myxo·virus \ˌmiksə+\ *n* [NL, fr. *myx-* + *virus;* fr. its affinity for certain mucins] : any of a group of rather large RNA-containing viruses that includes influenza and mumps viruses — **myxo·viral** \"+\ *adj*
n* *abbr* ²nano-
NAD \ˌe(ˌ)nāˈdē\ *abbr or n* -s nicotinamide-adenine dinucleotide *herein*
NADP \ˌe,nā(ˌ)dē'pē\ *abbr or n* -s nicotinamide-adenine dinucleotide phosphate *herein*
naïve* *adj* : ignorant of relevant research hypotheses or of the purpose of a particular experiment; *also* : not previously subjected to experimentation or to a particular experimental situation ⟨experimentally ~ rats⟩
na·led \ˈnāˌled\ *n* -s [origin unknown] : a short-lived insecticide of relatively low toxicity to warm-blooded animals that is used esp. to control crop pests and mosquitoes
name of the game : the thing to do or have : the essential quality or matter ⟨patience is the *name of the game* in coastal duck hunting —Dick Beals⟩
nano·second \ˌnanō+\ *n* [ISV *nano-* + *second*] : one billionth of a second — abbr. *nanosec, nsec*
narc *or* **nark** \ˈnärk\ *n* -s [short for *narcotic agent*] : one (as a government agent) who investigates narcotics violations
narcotic* *n* : a drug (as marijuana or LSD) subject to restriction similar to that of addictive narcotics whether in fact physiologically narcotic and addictive or not
na·tri·ure·sis \ˌnā-trē(y)ə¦rēsəs, ¦na-·\ *also* **na·tru·re·sis** \-trə¦rē-\ *n* [NL, fr. *natrium* or *natr-* + *uresis*] : excessive loss of cations and esp. sodium in the urine — **na·tri·uret·ic** \-trē(y)ə¦red-ik\ *adj or n*
natural language* *n* : the language of ordinary speaking and writing — distinguished from *machine language, herein*
neb·bish \ˈnebish\ *n* -ES [Yiddish *nebach, nebech* poor thing (used interjectionally), of Slav origin; akin to Czech *nebohý* wretched, Pol *niebożę* poor creature] : a timid, meek, or ineffectual person
negative income tax *n* : a system of federal subsidy payments to families with incomes below a stipulated level proposed as a substitute for or supplement to welfare payments
negative transfer *n* : the impeding of learning or performance in a situation by the carry-over of learned responses from another situation — called also *negative transfer effect;* compare INTERFERENCE 9, TRANSFER 6b
ne·gri·tude \ˈnēgrəˌtüd, ˈneg-, -rə-,tyüd\ *n* -S [F *négritude*, fr. *nègre* Negro + *-i-* + *-tude* (fr. MF) — more at NEGRESS, -TUDE] **1** : a consciousness of and pride in the cultural and physical aspects of the African heritage **2** : the state of being a Negro
ne·gro·ness \ˈ=(ˌ)=nəs\ *n, usu cap* [*Negro* + *-ness*] : the quality or state of being Negro
neh·ru \ˈne(ə)r(ˌ)ü, ˈnā(ˌ)rü\ *adj, usu cap* [after Jawaharlal *Nehru* †1964 Indian nationalist] : MAO *herein*
neo·colonialism \ˌnēˌ(ˌ)ō+\ *n* [*ne-* + *colonialism*] : the economic and political policies by which a Great Power indirectly maintains or extends its influence over other areas or peoples — **neo·colonialist** \"+\ *n or adj*
neo–dada \"+\ *n, usu cap D* [*ne-* + *Dada*] : an anti-art movement esp. of the late 1950s and the 1960s based on tenets similar to those of Dada but having more interest in the object than Dada claimed to have; *broadly* : JUNK ART *herein* — **neo–dadaism** \"+\ *n* — **neo–dadaist** \"+\ *adj or n*
neur·amin·i·dase \ˌn(y)ürəˈminəˌdāsˌ, -āzˌ\ *n* -S [*neuraminic* acid + *-idase* (as in *glucosidase*)] : a hydrolytic enzyme that is found esp. in microorganisms of the respiratory or intestinal tract and that splits mucoproteins by breaking a glucoside link
neu·ro·biology \ˌn(y)ürō, -ùˌ\ *n* [*neur-* + *biology*] : a branch of the life sciences that deals with the anatomy, physiology, and pathology of the nervous system from a holistic viewpoint — **neu·ro·biological** \"+\ *adj* — **neu·ro·biologist** \"+\ *n*
neu·ro·chemistry \"+\ *n* [*neur-* + *chemistry*] : the study of the chemical makeup and activities of nervous tissue — **neu·ro·chemical** \"+\ *adj* — **neu·ro·chemist** \"+\ *n*
neu·ro·endocrinology \"+\ *n* [*neur-* + *endocrinology*] : a branch of the life sciences dealing with neurosecretion and the physiological interaction between the central nervous system and the endocrine system — **neu·ro·endocrinological** *adj*
neu·ro·he·mal organ *also* **neu·ro·hae·mal organ** \ˌn(y)ürō-ˌhēməl-, -ùˌ\ *n* [*neur-* + *hem-* + *-al* + *organ*] : an organ (as a corpus cardiacum of an insect) that releases stored neurosecretory substances into the blood
neu·ro·ki·nin \ˌn(y)ürōˈkīnən\ *n* -S [*neur-* + *kinin* (herein)] : a vasodilator kinin that may play a role in the causation of migraine headaches
neu·ro·lept·analgesia \ˌn(y)ürōˌlept, -ùˌ +\ *also* **neu·ro·lep·to·analgesia** \ˌn(y)ürōˌleptō, -ùˌ +\ [NL, fr. ISV *neurolept-* or *neuroleptо-* (fr. *neuroleptic* — herein) + *analgesic* + NL *-ia* (as in *analgesia*)] : joint administration of a tranquilizing drug and an analgesic esp. for relief of surgical pain — **neu·ro·lept·analgesic** *adj*
neu·ro·lep·tic \ˌn(y)ürōˈleptik, -ùˌ\ *n* -S [ISV *neur-* + *psycholeptic;* orig. formed as F *neuroleptique*] : TRANQUILIZER 2 — **neuroleptic** \ˈ=ˌ=\ *adj*

neu·ro·pharmacology \ˌn(y)ürō-, -ù- +\ *n* [*neur-* + *pharmacology*] : a branch of medical science dealing with the action of drugs on and in the nervous system — **neu·ro·pharmacologic** \"+\ *adj* — **neu·ro·pharmacological** \"+\ *adj* — **neu·ro·pharmacologist** \"+\ *n*

neu·ro·psychic \"+\ *also* **neu·ro·psychical** \"+\ *adj* [*neur-* + *psychic* or *psychical*] : of or relating to both the mind and the nervous system as affecting mental processes

neu·ro·science \"+\ *n* [*neur-* + *science*] : a branch of science (as neurology or neurophysiology) that deals with the anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, or molecular biology of nerves and nervous tissue and esp. with their relation to behavior and learning — **neu·ro·scientist** \" +\ *n*

neu·ro·sensory \"+\ *adj* [*neur-* + *sensory*] : of or relating to afferent nerves

neu·ro·transmitter \"+\ *n* [*neur-* + *transmitter*] : a substance (as norepinephrine) that transmits nerve impulses across a synapse

neutron star *n* [*neutron* + *star;* fr. the hypothesis that the cores of such stars are composed entirely of neutrons] : any of various hypothetical very dense celestial objects that consist of closely packed nuclear particles resulting from the collapse of a much larger stellar body and that may be detectable through their emission of X rays

new economics *n pl but usu sing in constr* : an economic concept that is a logical extension of Keynesianism and that holds that appropriate fiscal and monetary maneuvering can maintain healthy economic growth and prosperity indefinitely

new issue *n* : a new security or an additional amount of a security made available for the first time to the general public

new left *n, usu cap N&L* : a political movement originating in the U.S. in the 1960s that is composed chiefly of students and various extremist groups and that actively advocates (as by demonstrations) radical changes in prevailing political, social, and educational practices — **new leftist** *n, often cap N & L*

new math *n* : mathematics that is based on set theory esp. as taught in elementary and secondary school

newspeak \ˈn(y)ü-\ *n, often cap* [*Newspeak,* a language "designed to diminish the range of thought" in the novel *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (1949) by George Orwell †1950 Eng. author, fr. ¹*new* + ²*speak*] : inflated propagandistic language characterized by ambiguity and contradictions : DOUBLE-TALK 2

new town* *n* : an urban development comprising a small to medium-size city with a broad range of housing and planned industrial, commercial, and recreational facilities

new wave *n, often cap N & W* [trans. of F *nouvelle vague*] : a cinematic movement that is characterized by improvisation, abstraction, and subjective symbolism and that often makes use of experimental photographic techniques

-nik \(ˌ)nik\ *n suffix* [Yiddish, fr. Pol & Russ] : one connected with or characterized by being ⟨peace*nik*⟩ ⟨neat*nik*⟩

ngwee \ˌeŋˈgwē, eŋˈ-\ *n, pl* **ngwee** [native name in Zambia, lit., bright] **1** : a monetary unit of Zambia equal to ¹⁄₁₀₀ kwacha — see MONEY table *in the Dict* **2** : a coin representing one ngwee

nicotinamide-adenine dinucleotide *n* : DIPHOSPHOPYRIDINE NUCLEOTIDE

nicotinamide-adenine dinucleotide phosphate *n* : TRIPHOSPHOPYRIDINE NUCLEOTIDE

nit \ˈnit\ *n* -s [ISV, fr. L *nitére* to shine — more at NEAT] : a unit of brightness equal to one candle per square meter of cross section perpendicular to the rays

nit-pick \ˈnitˌpik\ *vi* -ED/-ING/-S [back-formation fr. *nit-picking*] : to engage in nit-picking — **nit-pick·er** *n* -s

nit-picking \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* -s [¹*nit* + *picking,* gerund of ¹*pick*] : minute and usu. unjustified criticism

ni·tro·fu·ran·to·in \ˌnī-(ˌ)trōfyəˈrantəwən\ *n* -s [*nitrofuran* + hydan*toin*] : a nitrofuran derivative that is a broad-spectrum antimicrobial agent esp. valuable in urinary tract infections

nit-ty-grit-ty \ˌnid-ēˈgrid-ē\ *n* [origin unknown] : the actual state of things : what is ultimately essential and true ⟨getting down to the *nitty-gritty*⟩

nobble* *vt, Brit* : to get hold of : CATCH

noise* *n* **1** : electromagnetic radiation (as light or radio waves) that is composed of several frequencies and that involves random changes in frequency or amplitude **2** : irrelevant or meaningless bits or words occurring along with desired information (as in a documentary search or a computer output)

noise pollution *n* : environmental pollution consisting of annoying or deleterious noise — called also *sound pollution*

no-load \ˈ=ˌ=\ *adj* : sold at net asset value

nominal* *adj* : being according to plan : falling within a range of acceptable planned limits : SATISFACTORY ⟨everything was ~ during the spacecraft launch⟩ ⟨satellite had a ~ orbit⟩

nominal* *n* **1** : a linguistic form (as English *boy* or *he*) that inflects for number or case or for both **2** : a word or word group functioning as a noun normally functions

non-additive \ˌnän *sometimes* ˈnən+\ *adj* [*non-* + *additive*] **1** : not having a numerical value equal to the sum of values for the component parts **2** : of, relating to, or being a genic effect that is not additive — **nonadditivity** *n*

non-aligned \ˌnän *sometimes* ˈnən+\ *adj* [*non-* + *aligned,* past part. of *align*] : not allied with other nations and esp. with one of the Great Powers

non-alignment \"+\ *n* : the condition of a state or government that is nonaligned

nonbook \ˈnän *sometimes* ˈnən+ˌ\ *n* : a book which has little literary merit or factual information, which is often a compilation (as of pictures or press clippings), and whose salability is usu. of primary interest

non-chromosomal \ˌnän *sometimes* ˈnən+\ *adj* : not situated on a chromosome : not involving chromosomes

non-destructive \"+\ *adj* : not destructive; *specif* : not causing destruction of material being investigated or treated ⟨~ testing of metal⟩ — **non-destructively** \" +\ *adv*

non-discrimination \"+\ *n* : the absence or avoidance of discrimination — **non-discriminatory** \"+\ *adj*

non-enzymatic \"+\ *or* **non-enzymic** \"+\ *also* **non-enzyme** \" +\ *adj* : not involving the action of enzymes ⟨~ cleavage of protein⟩ — **nonenzymatically** *adv*

non-fluency \ˌnän *sometimes* ˈnən+\ *n* **1** : lack of fluency **2** : an instance of nonfluency — **non-fluent** \"+\ *adj*

non-graded \"+\ *adj* : having no grade levels ⟨~ schools⟩

non-green \"+\ *adj* : not green; *specif* : containing no chlorophyll ⟨fungi and other ~ saprophytes⟩

non-hero \ˈnän *sometimes* ˈnən +ˌ\ *n* : ANTI-HERO *herein*

nonhost \"+ˌ\ *n* : a plant that is not attacked or parasitized by a particular organism

non-insecticidal \ˌnän *sometimes* ˈnən+\ *adj* : lacking an insecticidal action : not involving use of an insecticide

non-negative \"+\ *adj* : not negative : being either positive or zero ⟨a ~ integer⟩

non-neoplastic \"+\ *adj* [*non-* + *neoplastic*] : not being or caused by neoplasms

non-nuclear \"+\ *adj* **1** : not producing or involving a nuclear explosion ⟨a ~ bomb⟩ ⟨a ~ mining blast⟩ **2** : not operating by or involving atomic energy ⟨a ~ propulsion system⟩ **3** : not having developed or not having the atom bomb ⟨a ~ country⟩ **4** : not involving the use of atom bombs ⟨~ war⟩

non-person \ˈnän *sometimes* ˈnən +ˌ\ *n* **1** : a person who is regarded as nonexistent or as never having existed **2** : UNPERSON *herein*

non-proliferation \ˌnän *sometimes* ˈnən+\ *adj* : providing for the stoppage of the worldwide spread of nuclear arms production ⟨~ treaty⟩ — **nonproliferation** *n*

non-u \"+\ *adj, cap U* [*non-* + *U* (herein)] : not characteristic of the upper classes

non-vocoid \"+\ *n* [*non-* + *vocoid*] : CONTOID *herein*

noo·sphere \ˈnōəˌfi\ *n* [ISV *noo-* + *sphere;* prob. orig. formed as Russian *noosphera*] : the biosphere as altered consciously or unconsciously by human activities

nor-eth-in-drone \nōˈrethənˌdrōn\ *n* -s [*nor-* + *ethinyl* + *-dr-* (perh. fr. *androgen*) + testoster*one*] : a synthetic progestational hormone used in oral contraceptives

nor-ethyn-o-drel \ˌnōrəˈthinəˌdrel\ *n* -s [*nor-* + *ethynyl* + *-odrel* (of unknown origin)] : a progesterone derivative used in oral contraceptives and clinically in the treatment of abnormal uterine bleeding and the control of menstruation

nor-mo-ther-mia \ˌnōrməˈthərmēə\ *n* -s [NL, fr. *norm-* + *-thermia*] : normal body temperature — **nor-mo-ther-mic** \ˈ=ˌ=mik\ *adj*

nose-ride \ˈ=ˌ=\ *vi* : to ride or perform stunts on the nose of a surfboard — **nose-rider** *n*

notchback \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* [*notch* + ¹*back*] **1** : a back on a closed passenger automobile having a distinct deck as distinguished from a fastback **2** : an automobile having a notchback

nou·velle vague \(ˌ)nüˌvelˈväg, -ág\ *n* [F, lit., new wave, fr. *nouvelle* (fem. of *nouveau* new, fr. L *novellus*) + *vague* wave, fr. OF *wage,* fr. ON *vāgr;* akin to OE *wǣg* wave, *wegan* to move — more at NOVELLA, WAY] : NEW WAVE *herein*

nsec *abbr* nanosecond *herein*

nuclear force *n* **1** : the powerful force between nucleons that holds atomic nuclei together **2** : STRONG INTERACTION *herein*

nuclear magnetic resonance *n* : the magnetic resonance of an atomic nucleus

nuclear resonance *n* : the resonance absorption of a gamma ray by a nucleus identical to the nucleus that emitted the gamma ray — compare MÖSSBAUER EFFECT *herein*

nu·cleo·capsid \ˌn(y)üklēōˈ+\ *n* [*nucle-* + *capsid* (herein)] : the nucleic acid and surrounding protein coat in a virus

nu·cle·o·lo·ne·ma \nˌ(y)ü,klēələˈnēmə\ *also* **nu·cle·o·lo·neme** \-ˈklēəlˌnēm\ *n* -s [NL *nucleolonema* fr. *nucleolus* + *-o-* + Gk *nēma* thread — more at NEEDLE] : a filamentous network consisting of small granules in some nucleoli

nucleon* *n* : a hypothetical single entity with one-half unit of isospin capable of manifesting itself as either a proton or a neutron and of making transitions between these two states

nu·cleo·synthesis \ˌn(y)üklēōˈ+\ *n* [NL, fr. *nucle-* + *synthesis*] : the production of a chemical element in nature from hydrogen nuclei or protons — **nu·cleo·synthetic** \"+\ *adj*

¹nud·ie \ˈn(y)üdē\ *n* -s [¹*nude* + *-ie*] : SKIN FLICK *herein*

²nudie *adj* : featuring nudes ⟨~ films⟩ ⟨~ magazines⟩

nu·mer·ate \ˈn(y)ümərət\ *adj* [L *numerus* number + E *-ate* (as in *literate*) — more at NIMBLE] *Brit* : marked by an understanding of the scientific approach and by the ability to think quantitatively — **nu·mer·a·cy** \-rəsē\ *n*

numerical control *n* : automatic control (as of a machine tool) by a digital computer — **numerically controlled** *adj*

nur·tur·ance \ˈnərchərən(t)s\ *n* -s [²*nurture* + *-ance*] : affectionate care and attention — **nur·tur·ant** \-rənt\ *adj*

ny·norsk \ˈn(y)ü-ˈnȯ(ə)rsk, ˈnüˈ-\ *n* -s [Norw, lit., new Norwegian, fr. *ny* new (fr. ON *nýr*) + *norsk* Norwegian — more at NEW, NORSKI] : LANDSMÅL

obie \ˈōbē\ *n -s usu cap* [*O.B.*, abbr. for *off-Broadway*] : any of several prizes awarded annually by a newspaper for excellence in off-Broadway theater

ob·jet trou·vé \ˌȯbˌzhā(ˌ)trüˈvā\ *n, pl* **objets trouvés** *same*\ [F, lit., found object] : FOUND OBJECT *herein*

ocea·naut \ˈōshəˌnȯt, -nät\ *n* -s [blend of *ocean* and *-naut* (as in *aquanaut* — herein)] : AQUANAUT *herein*

oce·an·ics \ˌōshēˈaniks\ *n pl but usu sing in constr* [*ocean* + *-ics*] : a group of sciences that deal with the ocean

odd-lot·ter \ˈädˈlätə-ər\ *n* -s [*odd lot* + *-er*] : a speculator or an investor who habitually buys and sells stock in less than round lots

off broadway *n, usu cap B* [so called fr. its usu. being produced in smaller theaters outside of the Broadway theatrical district] : a part of the New York professional theater stressing fundamental and artistic values and formerly engaging in experimentation — **off-broadway** *adj, usu cap B*

offering price* *n* : the price at which an open-end mutual fund is sold consisting of its asset value usu. plus a specified load

of·fi·ci·a·lis \əˌfishēˈālәs, -ˈal-\ *n, pl* **of·fi·ci·a·les** \-ˈā(ˌ)lāsˌ, -ˈa(ˌ)lēz\ [NL, fr. ML, official — more at OFFICIAL] : the presiding judge of the matrimonial court of a Roman Catholic diocese

off-off-broadway \(ˈ)=ˈ=ˌ=ˌ=\ *n, usu cap B* [so called fr. its relation to off-Broadway being analogous to the relation of off-Broadway to Broadway] : an avant-garde theatrical movement in New York that stresses untraditional techniques and radical experimentation — **off-off-broadway** *adj, usu cap B*

off–putting \ˈ=ˌ=ˈ=\ *adj* : that puts one off : DISCOURAGING

ol·fac·tron·ics \ˌälˌfakˈträniks\ *n pl but sing in constr* [*olfaction* + *-tronics* (as in *electronics*)] : a branch of physical science dealing with the detection and identification of odors

ol·i·gid·ic \ˌälәˈgidik, -ˈjii-\ *adj* [*olig-* + *-idic* (as in *meridic* — herein)] : having the active constituents with the exception of water undefined chemically ⟨~ growth medium⟩ — compare HOLIDIC, MERIDIC *herein*

olig·o·mer \ōˈligəmə(r), əˈl-\ *n* -s [*olig-* + *-mer*] : a polymer or polymer intermediate that contains relatively few structural units — **olig·o·mer·ic** \ˌ=ˌ=ˈmerik, ˈälәgōˌm-\ *adj*

ol·i·go·nucleotide \ˈälәgō, əˌligə+\ *n* [*olig-* + *nucleotide*] : a chain of several nucleotides

om·buds·man \ˈämˌbůdzmən, ˈȯm-, -ˌbəd-, -ˌman\ *n, pl* **ombuds·men** \-mən,-ˌmen\ [Sw, lit., representative, commissioner, fr. ON *umbothsmathr,* fr. *umboth* commission (fr. *um* around + *bjōtha* to command) + *mathr* man — more at EMBER DAY, BID, MAN] **1** : a government official (as in Sweden or New Zealand) appointed to receive and investigate complaints made by individuals against abuses or capricious acts of public officials **2** : one that investigates reported complaints (as from students or customers), reports findings, and helps to achieve equitable settlements — **om·buds·man·ship** \-mənˌship\ *n*

omega* *or* **omega particle** *n* **1** : a negatively charged elementary particle that has a mass 3280 times the mass of an electron and that is an unstable baryon decaying into a xi and a pion with an average lifetime of about 10^{-10} second **2** *or* **omega meson** : a very short-lived unstable meson with mass 1532 times the mass of an electron

om·ni·focal \ˌämnəˈ-nēf+*adj* [*omni-* + *focal*] : of, relating to, or being a bifocal eyeglass that is so ground as to permit smooth transition from one correction to the other

onboard \ˈ=ˌ=\ *adj* [*on board*] : carried within a vehicle (as a rocket, satellite, or spacecraft) ⟨an ~ computer⟩

one–time pad \ˌ=ˌ=ˈ=\ *n* [¹*one* + ¹*time* + ¹*pad;* prob. fr. its original form's being a pad of keys whose sheets were torn off and discarded after a single use] : a random-number additive or mixed keying sequence to be used for a single coded message and then destroyed

one–up \ˈwənˈəp\ *vt* **one–upped; one–upping; one–ups** [back-formation fr. *one-upmanship*] : to practice one-upmanship on

on–line \ˈ=ˌ=\ *adj* [¹*on* + ³*line*] **1** : located at a point served directly by a particular railroad ⟨*on-line* industry⟩ **2** : being under the direct control of or in direct communication with a computer ⟨*on-line* equipment⟩ — **on–line** *adv*

op \ˈäp\ *or* **op art** *n* -s [by shortening] : OPTICAL ART *herein* — **op artist** *n*

open–circuit \ˈ=ˌ=ˈ=ˌ=\ *adj* : of or relating to an open circuit; *specif* : being or relating to television in which programs are broadcast so that they are available to all receivers within range

open enrollment *n* **1** : the voluntary enrollment of a student in a public school other than the one he is assigned to on the basis of his residence **2** : enrollment on demand as a student in an institution of higher learning irrespective of formal qualifications

open–heart \ˌ=ˌ=ˈ=\ *adj* : of, relating to, or performed on a heart temporarily relieved of circulatory function and laid open for inspection and treatment ⟨*open-heart* surgery⟩

open loop *n* : a control system for an operation or process in which there is no self-correcting action

open sentence *n* : a statement (as in mathematics) containing at least one blank or unknown so that when the blank is filled or a quantity substituted for the unknown the statement becomes a complete statement that is either true or false

operand* *n* -s : the part of a computer instruction that indicates the quantities to be operated on; *also* : one of these quantities

op·er·a·tion·ist \ˌäpəˈrāsh(ə)nəst\ *n* -s [*operation* + *-ist*] : OPERATIONALIST

operator* *n* : OPERATOR GENE *herein*

operator gene *n* : a chromosomal region that triggers formation of messenger RNA by one or more structural genes and is itself subject to inhibition by a genetic repressor

op·er·on \ˈäpəˌrän\ *n* -s [ISV *operator* + ²*-on;* prob. orig. formed in F] : a group of linked cistrons

optical* *adj* : of, relating to, or being optical art

optical art *n* : nonobjective art characterized by the use of straight or curved lines or geometric patterns often for an illusory effect (as of perspective or motion)

op·to·electronic \ˌäpˌtōˌ(ˌ)tōˈ+\ *adj* [*optical* + *-o-* + *electronic*] : being or relating to a device in which light energy and electrical energy are coupled — **op·to·electronics** \"+\ *n pl but sing in constr*

oral history *n* : tape-recorded historical information obtained in interviews with persons who have led significant lives — **oral historian** *n*

order* *n* : a class of mutually exclusive linguistic forms any and only one of which may occur in a fixed definable position in the permitted sequence of items forming a word

or·ga·no \ˈȯrgəˌ(ˌ)nō, ȯrˈgä(-\ *adj* [by shortening] : ORGANOMETALLIC

or·ga·no·phosphate \ˌȯrgənō-, ȯrˌganə-+\ *adj* [*organ-* + *phosphate*] : of, relating to, or being a phosphorus-containing organic insecticide (as malathion) that acts by inhibiting the action of cholinesterase — **organophosphate** *n*

or·ga·no·phosphorous \"+\ *or* **or·ga·no·phosphorus** \"+\ *adj* [*organ-* + *phosphorous* or *phosphorus*] : ORGANOPHOSPHATE *herein*

ori·en·teer·ing \ˌōrēənˈtiriŋ, -ēˌen-\ *n* [modif. (influenced by *-eer*) of Sw *orientering,* fr. *orientera* to orient, fr. F *orienter*] : cross-country racing in which map and compass are used

or·thog·o·nal·iza·tion \ȯ(r)ˌthägənəˈlāˈzāshən, -ᵊlˌīˈz-\ *n* -s [*orthogonalize* + *-ation*] : the replacing of a set of vectors by a linearly equivalent set of orthogonal vectors

or·tho·normal \ˈȯ(r)thə+\ *adj* [*orth-* + *normal*] : being a system of vectors in which each vector is of unit length and any two distinct vectors are orthogonal

or·thot·ics \ȯrˈthädiks\ *n pl but sing in constr* [fr. Gk *orthōsis* straightening; after such pairs as E *prosthesis; prosthetics* — more at ORTHOSIS] : a branch of mechanical and medical science dealing with the support and bracing of weak or ineffective joints or muscles — compare PROSTHETICS *in the Dict* — **or·thot·ic** \-ik\ *adj* — **or·tho·tist** \ˈȯrthəˌtəst\ *n* -s

orthotropic* *adj* **1** : being, having, or relating to properties (as strength, stiffness, and elasticity) that are symmetric about two or three mutually perpendicular planes ⟨a piece of straight-grained wood is an ~ material⟩ **2** : designed so that the roadway serves as an orthotropic structural member : constructed with a steel-plate deck as an integral part of the support structure — used of a bridge

or·well·ian \ȯrˈwelēən\ *adj, usu cap* [George *Orwell* (pseudonym of Eric Blair †1950 Eng. writer) + E *-ian*] : of, relating to, or suggestive of George Orwell or his writings

os·mol \ˈäzˌmōl, ˈäˌsmōl\ *n* -s [blend of *osmosis* and *mol*] : a standard unit of osmotic pressure based on the concentration of an ion in a solution — **os·mo·lal** \(ˈ)äzˈmōlәl, (ˈ)äˈsmō-\ *adj* — **os·mo·lal·i·ty** \ˌäzmeˈlaləd-ē, ˌäsm-\ *n* -ES

os·mo·lar \(ˈ)äzˈmōlə(r), (ˈ)äˈsm-\ *adj* [*osmol* (herein) + *-ar*] : OSMOTIC — used chiefly of biological fluids — **os·mo·lar·i·ty** \ˌäzməˈlarəd-ē, ˌäsm-\ *n* -ES

out* *adj* : not approved of or accepted by those who are keenly aware of and responsive to what is new and smart : not in

outside* *adj* : made or done from the outside or from a distance ⟨borrowed a basketball and practiced his ~ shot all day⟩

over-achiev·er \R ˌōvərəˈchēvər, -R -və(r)əˈchēvə(r)\ *n* -s [¹*over* + *achieve* + *-er*] : one who achieves success over and above a standard or expected level

overbook \ˌ=ˈ=\ *vb* [¹*over* + ²*book*] *vt* : to issue reservations for (as an airplane flight) in excess of the space available ~ *vi* : to issue reservations in excess of the space available

overdub \ˈ=ˌ=\ *vt* [¹*over* + *dub*] : to transfer (sound already recorded) to a record that bears recorded sound for producing a combined effect

overkill \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* -s [*overkill,* v. (herein) fr. ¹*over* + ¹*kill*] **1** : the capability of destroying an enemy or target with a nuclear force larger than is required **2** : an excess of something (as a quantity or an action) beyond what is required or suitable for a particular purpose ⟨a propaganda ~⟩ ⟨an ~ in weaponry⟩ **3** : killing in excess of what is intended or required : excessive killing — **overkill** \ˈ=ˌ=ˌ=ˌ=ˈ=\ *vb*

overnutrition \ˌ=ˌ=ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* [¹*over* + *nutrition*] : excessive food intake esp. when viewed as a factor in pathology

overshoot \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* [*overshoot, v.*] : the action or an instance of overshooting; *esp* : a going beyond an intended point

ovon·ic \ōˈvänik\ *n* -s [short for *ovonic device*] : a device that operates in accordance with the Ovshinsky effect

ovon·ics \-ks\ *n pl but usu sing in constr* [*Ovshinsky* effect (herein) + electr*onics*] : a branch of electronics that deals with applications of the Ovshinsky effect — **ovonic** *adj*

ov·shin·sky effect \ōvˈshin(t)skē-, ōv-\ *n, usu cap O* [after Stanford R. *Ovshinsky* b1923 Amer. inventor] : the change from an electrically nonconducting state to a semiconducting state shown by glasses of special composition upon application of a certain minimum voltage

ox·a·cil·lin \ˌäksəˈsilәn\ *n* -s [is*oxa*zole + peni*cillin*] : a semisynthetic penicillin that is esp. effective in the control of infections caused by penicillin-resistant staphylococci

ox·bridge \ˈäksbrij\ *adj, usu cap* [*Ox*ford University, England + Cam*bridge* University, England] : of, relating to, or characteristic of Oxford and Cambridge universities — compare REDBRICK *herein*

oxy·some \ˈäksəˌsōm\ *n* -s [²*oxy-* + ³*-some*] : one of the structural units of mitochondrial cristae that appear usu. as spheres or stalked spheres and that are prob. sites of energy-producing reactions

ozone·sonde \ˈ=ˌ=ˌ=\ *n* -s [*ozone* + *sonde*] : a balloon-borne instrument that measures the concentration of ozone at various altitudes and broadcasts the data by radio

p* *abbr* pico-

pa·'anga \pä-ˈäŋ(g)ə\ *n, pl* **pa'anga** [Tongan, lit., seed] **1** : the basic monetary unit of Tonga — see MONEY table *in the Dict* **2** : a coin or note representing one pa'anga

pa·leo·magnetism \ˌpālēō, ˌpalēō+\ *n* [*pale-* + *magnetism*] **1** : the intensity and direction of residual magnetization in ancient rocks **2** : a study that deals with paleomagnetism — **pa·leo·magnetic** \"+\ *adj*

pa·leo·temperature \"+\ *n* [*pale-* + *temperature*] : the temperature (as of the ocean) during a past geological age

pan·chres·ton \panˈkrestən, -ˌtän\ *n* -s [Gk *panchrēston* panacea, fr. neut. of *panchrēstos* good for all work, fr. *pan-* + *chrēstos* good — more at CHRESTOMATHY] : a broadly inclusive thesis that is intended to cover all possible variations within an area of concern and that in practice usu. proves to be an unacceptable oversimplification

pan·gram \ˈpangrəm, -aŋg-, -ˌgram\ *n* -s [*pan-* + Gk *grammat-, gramma* letter — more at GRAM] : a short sentence containing all 26 letters of the English alphabet — **pan·grammatic** \ˌpangrəˈmad·ik, -aŋg-\ *adj*

pantdress \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* [*pant* + *dress*] : CULOTTE 2

pantsuit *or* **pants suit** \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* -s [*pant* or *pants* + *suit*] : a woman's ensemble consisting usu. of a long jacket with sleeves reaching to the wrist and tailored pants of the same material

panty hose *also* **panti·hose** \ˈpantēˌhōz\ *n* : a one-piece woman's garment combining the functions of panties and hose for wear esp. with a miniskirt

pa·pa·raz·zo \ˌpäpəˈrät(ˌ)sō\ *n, pl* **paparaz·zi** \-sē\ [It] : a news reporter or photographer who doggedly searches for a story that can be sensationalized

paper factor *n* : a substance orig. isolated from pulpwood of the balsam fir that is a selectively effective insecticide with activity like that of juvenile hormone

paper gold *n* : SDRS *herein*

pap smear *also* **pap test** \ˈpap-\ *n, usu cap P* [*pap* short for *Papanicolaou test*] : PAPANICOLAOU TEST

para·foil \ˈparəˌfȯilˌ\ *n* [*para*chute + *-foil* (as in *airfoil*)] : a self-inflating fabric device that resembles a parachute, behaves in flight like an airplane wing, is maneuverable, is capable of landing a payload at slow speed, and can be launched from the ground in a high wind like a kite

para·glider \ˈparəˌ+\ *n* [*para*chute + *glider*] : a triangular device that consists of two flexible sections, resembles a kite, and is used for guiding and landing a spacecraft after reentry or for recovering a launching rocket

para·kite \ˈparəˌ+\ *n* [*para*chute + *kite*] : a parachute with slits that is towed against the wind by an automobile or motorboat so that a person harnessed to the parachute is lifted into the air and pulled along — **para·kiting** \-ˌkīd·iŋ\ *n*

para·language \"+\ *n* [¹*para-* + *language*] : optional vocal effects (as tone of voice) that accompany or modify the phonemes of an utterance and may communicate meaning

para·linguistic \ˌparə+\ *adj* [*para-* + *linguistic*] : of or relating to paralanguage or to the study of paralanguage
para·linguistics \"+\ *n* [*para-* + *linguistics*] : the study of paralanguage
paramagnetic resonance *n* : ELECTRON SPIN RESONANCE *herein*
parameter* *n* **1** : any of a set of physical properties whose values determine the characteristics or behavior of a system ⟨~s of the atmosphere such as temperature, pressure, and density⟩ **2** : something represented by a parameter : a characteristic element; *broadly* : ELEMENT, FACTOR
parametric* *adj* : depending on the usu. periodic variation of a parameter; *specif* : being or relating to a high-frequency amplifier whose operation is based on time variations in a parameter (as reactance) and which converts the energy at the frequency of an alternating current into energy at the input signal frequency in such a way as to amplify the signal
parametric equation *n* : any of a set of equations that express the coordinates of the points of a curve as functions of one parameter or that express the coordinates of the points of a surface as functions of two parameters
para·political \ˌparə+\ *adj* [*para-* + *political*] : existing alongside a political structure or group in a professedly nonpolitical capacity
para·professional \"+\ *n* [*para-* + *professional*] : a trained aide who assists a professional person; *esp* : a teacher's aide
para·wing \ˈparəˌ+\ *n* [*para*chute + *wing*] : PARAGLIDER *herein*
parietal* *n* **parietals** *pl* : the regulations governing visiting by members of the opposite sex in campus dormitories
parity* *n* **1** : the property of an integer with respect to being odd or even ⟨3 and 7 have the same ~ while 3 and 4 have different ~⟩ **2** : the evenness or oddness of a quantum-mechanical wave function with respect to inversion of spatial coordinates **3 a** : the property of a physical system or process that indicates whether or not its mirror image occurs in nature **b** : the property of an elementary particle that is emitted or created during a nuclear process and that indicates whether or not the emission is in a preferred direction
parking orbit *n* : the orbit of an artificial satellite or a space vehicle traveling around a body (as the earth) in such a way as to serve as a station from which another vehicle is launched or as to be itself propelled later into a new trajectory
par·kin·son's law \ˌpärkənsənz-, ˌpȧk-\ *n, usu cap P&L* [after C. Northcote *Parkinson b*1909 Eng. historian] **1** : an observation in office organization: the number of subordinates increases at a fixed rate regardless of the amount of work produced **2** : an observation in office organization: work expands so as to fill the time available for its completion
particle board *n* : a composition board made of very small pieces of wood bonded together (as with a synthetic resin)
par·y·lene \ˈparəˌlēn\ *n* -s [contr. of *paraxylene*] : any of several thermoplastic crystalline materials that are polymers of paraxylene and are used esp. as electrical insulation coating
passive satellite *n* : an artificial satellite without instruments; *esp* : one that simply reflects radio signals back to earth
pasteurization* *n* : partial sterilization of perishable food products (as fruit or fish) with radiation (as gamma rays)
past·ies \ˈpāstēz\ *n pl* [²*paste* + *-ie*] : small round coverings for a woman's nipples
pata·physics \ˌpad·ə+\ *n pl but sing in constr* [F *pataphysique*] : intricate and whimsical nonsense intended as a parody of science — **pata·physical** \"+\ *adj* — **pata·physician** \"+\ *n*
patch* *vt* : to connect (as circuits) by a patch cord
patchboard \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* [¹*patch* + *board*] : a plugboard in which circuits are interconnected by patch cords
patch panel *n* : PATCHBOARD *herein*
patterning* *n* : a technique designed to improve damaged neural controls by means of feedback from forced muscular activity imposed in physical therapy
payload* *n* : the load (as of passengers or instruments) directly related to the purpose of a rocket or space flight; *also* : the weight of such a load
payout ratio *n* : a ratio relating dividend payout of a company to its earnings or cash flow
pazazz *var of* PIZZAZZ *herein*
peaceful coexistence *n* : a living together in peace rather than in constant hostility
peace sign *n* : a sign made by raising the index finger and middle finger to form a V and used to indicate the desire for peace or as a greeting or farewell
pearl* *vi, of a surfboard* : to plunge headfirst into the trough of a wave
peat·land \ˈpēt,land\ *n* [*peat* + *land*] : land rich in peat
peek-a-boo* *adj* : of, relating to, or being a document retrieval system in which desired documents are identified by light shining through matching holes in index cards
pe·king·ol·o·gy \ˌpē(ˌ)kiŋˈälәjē\ *n* -ES *usu cap* [*Peking*, capital of Communist China + *-o-* + *-logy*] : the study of the policies and practices of the Chinese Communist government — **pe·king·ol·o·gist** \-jәst\ *n -s usu cap*
peloton* *or* **peloton glass** *n* : a European ornamental glass often with variegated metallized and satinized surface and usu. overlaid with strands of contrasting color
pemoline *n* -s [of unknown origin] : a synthetic organic drug that is usu. mixed with magnesium hydroxide, is a mild stimulant of the central nervous system, and is used experimentally to improve memory
percentile* *n* : a value on a scale of one hundred that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it
per·fec·ta \pə(r)ˈfektə\ *n* -s [AmerSp *quiniela perfecta* perfect quiniela] : a system of betting on races in which the bettor must pick the first and second horses in this sequence in a specified race in order to win — called also *exacta*
per·for·ma·tive \pərˈfȯrmәd·iv\ *n* -s [*perform* + *-ative* (as in ²*imperative*)] : an expression that serves to effect a transaction or that constitutes the performance of the specified act by virtue of its utterance ⟨. . . many ~s are *contractual* ("I bet") or *declaratory* ("I declare war") utterances —J.L.Austin⟩
peri·apsis \ˌperē+\ *n, pl* **periapsides** [NL, fr. *peri-* + *apsis*] : the apsis that is the least distance from the center of attraction
peri·cyn·thi·on \ˌperəˈsin(t)thēən\ *n* -s [NL, fr. *peri-* + *Cynthia*, goddess of the moon (fr. Gk *Kynthia*) + *-on* (as in *aphelion*)] : PERILUNE *herein*
peri·lune \ˈperəˌlün\ *n* -s [*peri-* + L *luna* moon — more at LUNAR] : the point in the path of a body orbiting the moon that is nearest to the center of the moon
peri·se·le·ne \ˌperəsəˈlēnē\ *n* -s [ISV *peri-* + *-selene* (fr. Gk *selēnē* moon) — more at SELEN-] : PERILUNE *herein*
peri·se·le·ni·um \-lēnēəm\ *n* -s [NL, fr. Gk *peri-* peri- + *selēnē* moon + NL *-ium* (alter. of *-ion* — as in *aphelion*) — more at SELEN-] : PERILUNE *herein*
pe·ri·tus \pəˈrēd·әs\ *n, pl* **peri·ti** \-ēd·ē, -ēˌtē\ [NL, fr. L *peritus*, adj., skilled, experienced — more at PERITE] : an expert (as in theology or canon law) who advises and assists the hierarchy (as in the drafting of schemata) at a Vatican council
permanent press *n* : DURABLE PRESS *herein* — **permanent-press** *adj*
personal tax *n* : DIRECT TAX
PERT \ˈpərt\ *n* -s [*program evaluation and review technique*] : a technique for planning, scheduling, and monitoring a complex project esp. by graphically displaying the separate tasks and showing how they are interconnected
pe·se·wa \pəˈsāwə\ *n* -s [native name in Ghana] **1** : a monetary unit of Ghana equal to 1/100 cedi — see MONEY table *in the Dict* **2** : a coin representing one pesewa
petit bourgeois *adj* [*petit bourgeois*, n.] : of, relating to, or characteristic of the petite bourgeoisie
pet·nap·ping \ˈpetˌnapiŋ\ *n* [*pet* + *-napping* (as in *kidnapping*)] : the act of stealing a pet (as a cat or dog) usu. for profit
phar·ma·co·genetics \ˌfärməkō+\ *n pl but sing in constr* [ISV *pharmaco-* + *genetics*] : the study of the interrelation of hereditary constitution and response to drugs — **phar·ma·co·genetic** \"+\ *adj*
phase-out \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* -s [*phase out*] : a gradual stopping of operations or production : a closing down by phases
phe·naz·o·cine \fəˈnazəˌsēn, -ˌsən\ *n* -s [*phen-* + *-azocine* (perh. irreg. fr. ²*azoic* + *-ine*)] : a drug related to morphine that has greater pain-relieving and slighter narcotic effect
phe·neth·i·cil·lin \fəˌnethəˈsilən\ *n* -s [*phen-* + *eth-* + *penicillin*] : a synthetic penicillin administered orally and used esp. in the treatment of respiratory infections
phe·ren·ta·sin \fəˈrentəsən\ *n* -s [Gk *pherein* to carry + *entasis* tension, stretching + E *-in* — more at BEAR, ENTASIS] : a pressor amine present in the blood in severe hypertension
pher·o·mone \ˈferəˌmōn\ *n* [ISV *phero-* (fr. Gk *pherein* to carry) + *-mone* (as in *hormone*); orig. formed as G *pheromon*; fr. its conveying information from one individual to another — more at BEAR] : a chemical substance that is produced by an animal and serves as a specific stimulus to other individuals of the same species for one or more behavioral responses
phil·lips curve \ˌfilәps-\ *n, usu cap P* [after A.W.H. *Phillips b*1914 Brit. economist] : a graphic representation of the relation between inflation and unemployment which indicates that as the rate of either increases that of the other declines
pho·no·tac·tics \ˌfōnəˈtaktiks\ *n pl but sing in constr* [*phon-* + *tactics*] : the area of phonology that analyzes and describes the permitted phoneme sequences of a language — **pho·no·tac·tic** \ˈ=ˌ=tik\ *adj*
phor·ate \ˈfō(ə)rˌāt, ˈfȯ(-\ *n* -s [*phosphor-* + *thionate*] : a very toxic organophosphate systemic insecticide
¹pho·to·chro·mic \ˌfōd·əˌkrōmik\ *adj* [*phot-* + *chrom-* + *-ic*] **1** : capable of changing color on exposure to radiant energy (as light) ⟨~ glass⟩ **2** : of, relating to, or utilizing the change of color shown by a photochromic substance ⟨a ~ process⟩ — **pho·to·chro·mism** \-ˌmizəm\ *n -s*
²photochromic *n* -s : a photochromic substance
pho·to·coagulation \ˌfōd·ō+\ *n* [*phot-* + *coagulation*] : surgical coagulation of tissue by means of a precisely oriented high-energy light source (as a laser beam) — **pho·to·coagulative** \"+\ *adj* — **pho·to·coagulator** \"+\ *n*
pho·to·scan \ˈfōd·ō+\ *n* -s [*photoscan*, v. (herein), fr. *phot-* + ¹*scan*] : a photograph (as of a kidney) produced by converging scintillations from gamma rays given off by an injected radioactive substance into a beam of light that is recorded photographically to show variations in tissue state — **photoscan** *vb* — **pho·to·scanner** \"+,\ *n* -s
phrase marker *n* : a representation of the immediate constituent structure of a linguistic construction
phrase structure *n* : the arrangement of the constituents of a sentence
phy·to·chrome \ˈfīd·əˌkrōm\ *n* -s [*phyt-* + *-chrome*] : a plant pigment; *specif* : a chromoprotein present in traces in many plants that when activated by red to far-red radiation plays a role in initiating floral and developmental processes
phy·to·tron \ˈfīd·əˌträn\ *n* -s [*phyt-* + *-tron* (as in *cyclotron*)] : a laboratory with facilities for growing plants under various combinations of strictly controlled conditions
PI* *abbr* programmed instruction
pi·cor·na·virus \pəˌkȯrnə+\ *n* [*pico-* + *RNA* + *virus*] : any of a group of tiny RNA-containing viruses including the enteroviruses and rhinoviruses — compare ADENOVIRUS *herein*
pig* *n* : POLICEMAN
piggyback* *adj* : being or relating to something (as a capsule or package) carried into space as an extra load by a vehicle (as a spacecraft or rocket) — **piggyback*** *adv*
pi·li·pi·no \ˌpil-ə-ˈpē-(ˌ)nō, ˌpēl-\ *n, cap* [Pilipino, fr. Sp *Filipino* Philippine] : the Tagalog-based official language of the Republic of the Philippines
pill* *n* : an oral contraceptive — usu. used with *the*
pill-head \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* [*¹pill* + *head*] : a person who takes pills or capsules (as of amphetamines) for nonmedicinal reasons
pill pool *n* [*¹pill;* fr. the drawing of small numbered balls from a bottle to determine order of play] : KELLY POOL
pinholder \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* [*pin* + *holder*] : a flower holder that consists of a substantial base topped with projecting pins
pinta \ˈpīntə\ *n* -s [*pint* + *-a* (as in *cuppa* — herein)] *Brit* : a pint of milk
pi·sci·cide \ˈpīsəˌsīd, ˈpisə-, ˈpiskə-\ *n* -s [*pisci-* + *-cide*] : a substance used to kill fish — **pi·sci·ci·dal** \ˌ=ˈ=sīdᵊl\ *adj*
piz·zazz *or* **pi·zazz** *also* **pa·zazz** \pəˈzaz\ *n* -ES [origin unknown] : the quality of being exciting or attractive: as **a** : GLAMOUR, APPEAL ⟨bemoans the lack of color and provocative ~ in today's stars —Vernon Scott⟩ **b** : SPIRIT, VITALITY ⟨we had four numbers with ~ and the rest of the show died around them —Gower Champion⟩
placebo effect *n* : improvement in the condition of a sick person that occurs in response to treatment but cannot be considered due to the specific treatment used
¹planeside \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* [*¹plane* + *¹side*] : the area adjacent to an airplane ⟨speaking briefly at ~ —*Christian Science Monitor*⟩
²planeside \ˈ=ˌ=\ *adj* : engaged in or made at planeside
plan·e·tol·o·gy \ˌplanəˈtäləjē\ *n* -ES [*planet* + *-o-* + *-logy*] : a study that deals with the condensed matter (as the planets, comets, and meteorites) of the solar system — **plan·e·to·logi·cal** \-ˌtᵊlājikəl\ *adj* — **plan·e·tol·o·gist** \-ˈtäləjəst\ *n -s*
plasma jet *n* **1** : a stream of very hot gaseous plasma; *also* : a device for producing such a stream **2** *or* **plasma engine** : a rocket engine designed to derive thrust from the discharge of a magnetically accelerated plasma
plasma torch *n* : a device that heats a gas by electrical means to form a plasma for high-temperature operations
plate* *vt* [fr. the crossing of home plate by the scoring runner] : to cause (as a run) to score in baseball
plated amberina *n* : an ornamental glass consisting of an amberina casing over a fiery opalescent or white lining
platform tennis *n* : a variation of paddle tennis that is played on a wooden platform enclosed by a wire fence
platoon* *vt* : to alternate (one player) with another player in the same position ⟨if I can't play him every day, I'll ~ him in left field —Leo Durocher⟩ ~ *vi* : to alternate with another player in the same position
playbook* *n* : a notebook containing the diagramed plays of a football team
plench \ˈplench\ *n* -ES [*pliers* + *wrench*] : a combination pliers and wrench operated by squeezing the handle and used to make pulling and turning motions under zero gravity
p-marker *n, usu cap P* [*P*, symbol for *phrase*] : PHRASE MARKER *herein*
pocket* *n* : an area formed by blockers from which a football player (as a quarterback) attempts to pass
pod* *n* : a detachable compartment on a spacecraft
point* *n* **points** *pl* : a percentage of the face value of a loan often added as a placement fee or service charge
point of no return **1** : the point in the flight of an aircraft beyond which the remaining fuel will be insufficient for a return to the starting point with the result that the craft must proceed **2** : a critical point (as in development or a course of action) at which turning back or reversal is not possible
point set *n* : a collection of geometrical points
point set topology *n* : a study that deals with the structure and properties of point sets as based on neighborhood
polar* *adj* **1** : passing over the earth's north and south poles ⟨a ~ orbit⟩ **2** : traveling in a polar orbit ⟨a ~ satellite⟩
pole lamp *n* : a lamp that consists of a pole to which light fixtures are attached and that usu. extends from floor to ceiling
po·lio virus \ˈpōlē(ˌ)ō+\ *n* [NL, fr. *poliomyelitis* + *virus*] : an enterovirus that occurs in several antigenically distinct forms and is the causative agent of human poliomyelitis
political* *adj* : involving or charged or concerned with acts against a government or a political system ⟨a ~ offense⟩
poly·carbonate \ˌpälē, -lә+\ *n* [*poly-* + *carbonate*] : any of various tough thermoplastics characterized by high impact strength and high softening temperature
poly·cen·trism \ˌpälēˈsen·ˌtrizəm, -lә-\ *n* -s [ISV *poly-* + *-centric* + *-ism;* prob. orig. formed in It] : the doctrine of a plurality of centers of Communist thought and leadership
polychromatic* *adj* : being or relating to radiation that is composed of more than one wavelength
poly·ether \ˌpälē+\ *n* [*poly-* + *ether*] **1** : a polymer in which the repeating unit contains a carbon-oxygen bond **2** : a polyurethane foam made by use of a polyether
poly·imide \ˌpälē+\ *n* [*poly-* + *imide*] : any of a class of polymeric synthetic resins resistant to high temperatures, wear, and corrosion and used esp. for coatings and films
poly I.poly C \ˌpälēˈī-ˌpälēˈsē\ *also* **poly I:C** \-ˌīˈsē\ *n* [*poly-* + *inosinic acid* + *poly-* + *cytidylic acid*] : a synthetic RNA that is held to induce interferon formation and that has been used experimentally as an anticancer and antiviral agent
poly·ribosome \ˌpälē, -lә+\ *n* -s [*poly-* + *ribosome* (herein)] : a protein-building unit consisting of a cluster of ribosomes held together by messenger RNA — **poly·ribosomal** \" +\ *adj*
poly·some \ˈpälēˌsōm, -lә-\ *n* -s [*poly-* + *ribosome* (herein)] : POLYRIBOSOME *herein*
poly·unsaturated \ˌpälē+\ *adj* [*poly-* + *unsaturated*] *of a fat or oil* : rich in unsaturated bonds — **poly·unsaturate** \"+\ *n*
poor-mouth \ˈ=ˌ=maůth, -ŧh\ *vb* [*poor mouth*] *vi* : to plead poverty as a defense or excuse ⟨usually *poor-mouths* when it's his turn to contribute⟩ ~ *vt* : to speak disparagingly of
pop* *adj* : of, relating to, or constituting a voguish mid-20th century mass culture that is international in scope, receives wide dissemination through the mass media, and encompasses a broad range of cultural phenomena (as vinyl clothing, pop art, and comic books)
pop* *or* **pop art** *n* : art in which commonplace objects (as road signs, hamburgers, comic strips, or soup cans) are used as subject matter and are often physically incorporated in the work — **pop artist** *n*
pop·ster \ˈpäpstə(r\ *n* -s [*pop* (herein) + *-ster*] : a practitioner of pop art
pop-top \ˈ=ˌ=\ *adj* [*¹pop* + *¹top*] : having a tab that can be pulled off to make an opening ⟨a *pop-top* beer can⟩
population explosion *n* : excessive population growth esp. of man aided by increase in both survival and reproduction
pornography* *n* : material (as a book) that is pornographic
po·ro·mer·ic \ˌpōrəˈmerik, ˌpȯr-\ *adj* [*poro-* + *polymeric*] : full of very fine pores — used of a tough synthetic material (as for shoe uppers) — **poromeric** *n* -s
posi-grade \ˈpäzəˌgrād\ *adj* [*positive* + *-grade* (as in *retrograde*)] : being an auxiliary rocket used for imparting additional thrust to a spacecraft in the direction of motion
position paper *n* : a detailed report that recommends a course of action on a particular issue
pothead \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* [*pot* + *head*] : one who smokes marijuana
power broker *n* : a person (as in politics) able to exert strong influence because of votes or individuals that he controls
power series *n* : an infinite series whose terms are successive integral powers of a variable multiplied by constants
power structure *n* **1** : a group of persons having control of an organization : ESTABLISHMENT **2** : the hierarchical interrelationships existing within a controlling group
pre-capillary \(ˈ)prē+\ *adj* [*pre-* + *capillary*] : being on the arterial side of and immediately adjacent to a capillary
pre-determiner \ˌprē+\ *n* [*pre-* + *determiner*] : a limiting noun modifier (as *both* or *all*) characterized by occurrence before the determiner in a noun phrase
pre-diabetes \ˌprē+\ *n* [*pre-* + *diabetes*] : an inapparent abnormal state that precedes the development of clinically evident diabetes — **pre-diabetic** \"+\ *adj or n*
preemptive* *adj* : marked by the seizing of the initiative : initiated by oneself ⟨~ attack⟩ ⟨~ war⟩
prehistoric* *adj* : of or relating to a language in a period of its development from which contemporary records of its actual sounds and forms have not been preserved
prelate nul·li·us \-nůˈlēəs\ *n, pl* **prelates nullius** [part translation of NL *praelatus nullius dioeceseos* prelate of no diocese] : a Roman Catholic prelate having ordinary jurisdiction over a district independent of any diocese
pre-plant \ˈ=ˌ=, ˌ=ˈ=\ *also* **pre-planting** \ˈ=ˌ=ing, ˌ=ˈ=\ *adj* : occurring or used before planting a crop ⟨~ fertilization⟩
pre-preg \ˈprēˌpreg\ *n* -s [*pre-* + *impregnated*] : a reinforcing or molding material (as glass cloth or paper) already impregnated with a synthetic resin
¹pre-soak \(ˈ)prē+\ *vt* [*pre-* + *soak*] : to soak beforehand
²presoak \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* **1** : a preparation used in presoaking clothes **2** : an instance of presoaking
pre-sort \(ˈ)prē+\ *vt* [*pre-* + *sort*] : to sort (outgoing mail) by zip code usu. before delivery to a post office
pre-teen \ˈprēˌ+\ *n* -s [*pre-* + *³teen*] : PREADOLESCENT — **preteen** *adj*
prevent defense *n* : a football defense in which linebackers and backs play deeper than usual in order to prevent the completion of a long pass
preventive detention* *n* : imprisonment without the right to bail of an arrested person awaiting trial for a felony who is considered dangerous to society
price-earnings ratio *n* : a measure of the value of a common stock determined as the ratio of its market price to its earnings per share and usu. expressed as a simple numeral (**price-earnings multiple**)
primary derivative *n* : a word (as *telegram*) whose immediate constituents are bound forms
primary structure *n* : sculpture in the idiom of minimal art — **primary structurist** *n*
prime rate *n* : an interest rate at which preferred customers can borrow from banks and which is the lowest commercial interest rate available at a particular time and place
print out *vt* [²*print* + ¹*out*] : to make a printout of
printout \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* -s [*print out*, v. (herein)] : a printed record produced automatically (as by a computer)
pri·va·tism \ˈprīvəˌtizəm\ *n* -s [*private* + *-ism*] : the attitude of being uncommitted to or avoiding involvement in anything beyond one's immediate interests
pro·ac·tive \(ˌ)prō+\ *adj* [L *pro-* forward (fr. *pro* before, for) + E *active* — more at FOR] : preceding something in time and modifying that which is preceded ⟨amount of ~ facilitation — amount of ~ transfer to the second task — was related to the amount of practice on the initial task —Don Lewis⟩
pro·ben·e·cid \prōˈbenəsәd\ *n* -s [irreg. fr. *propyl* + *benzoic acid*] : a drug that acts on renal tubular function and is used to inhibit the excretion of some drugs (as penicillin) and to increase the excretion of urates in gout
pro·ges·to·gen \prōˈjestəjәn, -ˌjen\ *n* -s [*progestational* + *-ogen* (as in *estrogen*)] : a progestational steroid used esp. to control uterine bleeding and to inhibit ovulation
program* *n* **1** : a sequence of coded instructions for insertion into a mechanism (as a data processor, language translator, machine tool, missile, or vehicle) for automatic control of its operation **2** : a series of stimuli usu. in the form of written statements and questions relating to a specific subject presented to a student in a particular sequence so that responses are elicited from him and he is informed of the appropriateness of his response before going on to the next item
program* *vt* **1** : to insert a program into ⟨~ a computer⟩ ⟨~ a machine tool⟩ ⟨~ a missile for guidance⟩ **2** : to insert a program for (a particular action, operation, or process) into a mechanism ⟨~ a calculation⟩ ⟨~ a farming operation⟩
pro·gram·ma·ble *or* **pro·gram·able** \ˈprōˌgraməbəl\ *adj* [²*program* + *-able*] : capable of being programmed ⟨a ~ calculator⟩ — **pro·gram·ma·bil·i·ty** \ˌ=ˌ=ˈbilәd·ē\ *n* -ES
pro·grammed *or* **pro·gramed** \ˈprōˌgramd, -grәmd\ *adj* [fr. past part. of ²*program*] **1** : being instruction or learning by means of an instructional program **2** : produced in the form of an instructional program ⟨a ~ textbook of physics⟩
programmer* *or* **pro·gram·er** *n* **1** : one that prepares a program for a mechanism **2** : a device that programs a mechanism **3** : one that prepares an educational program
programming* *or* **programing*** *n* **1** : the process of instructing or learning by means of an instructional program **2** : the process of preparing an instructional program
pro·jec·tu·al \proˈjekchəwəl, prō-\ *n* -s [²*project* + *-ual* (as in *visual*)] : a usu. instructional material (as a transparency) to be projected (as onto a screen) by a projector
pros·ta·glan·din \ˌprästəˈglandәn\ *n* [ISV *prostate gland* + *-in*; fr. its occurrence in the sexual glands of mammals] : any of various oxygenated unsaturated cyclic fatty acids of animals that may perform a variety of hormonelike actions (as in controlling blood pressure or smooth muscle contraction)
pro·tein·oid \ˈprō,tēˌnȯid, ˈprōtᵊnˌȯid, ˈprōd·ēəˌnȯid\ *n* -s [*protein* + ¹*-oid*] : a proteinaceous substance obtained by suitable polymerization of mixtures of amino acids
prothoracic gland *n* : one of a pair of thoracic endocrine organs in some immature insects that control molting
pro·to·continent \ˌprōd·ō+\ *n* [*prot-* + *continent*] : SUPERCONTINENT *herein*
pro·to·porcelain \ˌprōd·(ˌ)ō+\ *n* [*prot-* + *porcelain;* prob. trans. of G *urporzellan*] : a porcelaneous ware lacking some of the qualities of a true porcelain; *specif* : a hard-fired gray kaolinic Chinese stoneware known since Han times
prox·e·mics \präkˈsēmiks\ *n pl but sing in constr* [*proximity* +

-emics (as in *phonemics*)] : a branch of study dealing with the personal and cultural spatial needs of man and his interaction with his environing space

psi·lo·cin \'sīləsən\ *n* -s [NL *Psilocybe mexicana*, fungus from which it is obtained + E *-in*] : a hallucinogenic tertiary amine obtained from a fungus (*Psilocybe mexicana*)

psi·lo·cy·bin \,sīlə'sībən\ *n* -s [NL *Psilocybe mexicana*, fungus from which it is obtained + E *-in*] : a hallucinogenic indole obtained from a fungus (*Psilocybe mexicana*)

psych* *also* **psyche** \'sīk\ *vt* -ED/-ING/-S **1** : to make (oneself) psychologically ready for performance — usu. used with *up* ⟨~*ed* himself up for the race⟩ **2** : to make psychologically uneasy : INTIMIDATE, SCARE ⟨pressure doesn't ~ me —Jerry Quarry⟩ — often used with *out*

psy·che·de·lia \,sīkə'dēlyə\ *n* [NL, fr. E *psychedelic* (herein) + L *-ia* -y] : the world of people, phenomena, or items associated with psychedelic drugs

1psy·che·del·ic \,sīkə'delik, -dēl-\ *adj* [Gk *psychē* soul + *dēloun* to show, reveal (fr. *dēlos* evident) + E *-ic* — more at PSYCHE, ADEL-] **1 a** : of, relating to, or causing an exposure of normally repressed psychic elements ⟨~ drugs⟩ **b** : of, relating to, involving, or resulting from the use of psychedelic drugs ⟨~ indulgences⟩ ⟨a ~ experience⟩ ⟨experimental ~ therapy⟩ **c** : of, relating to, or concerned with psychedelics ⟨hippies escaping to their ~ lairs —T.E.Mullaney⟩ ⟨~ medicine designed to help LSD users⟩ **2 a** : imitating or reproducing the effects (as distorted or heightened sense perception) of psychedelic drugs ⟨~ light show⟩ ⟨~ art⟩ **b** (1) : brightly colored ⟨ferryboats soon will take on a ~ look, with an overall coat of international orange and touches of red and yellow —*N.Y.Times*⟩ (2) *of colors* : FLUORESCENT **c** : making use of electronically distorted sounds ⟨~ rock⟩ **3** : of, relating to, dealing in, or being the culture associated with psychedelic drugs ⟨~ shops⟩ — **psy·che·del·i·cal·ly** \-lik(ə)lē\ *adv*

2psychedelic *n* **1** : a psychedelic drug (as LSD) **2 a** : a user or an advocate of psychedelic drugs **b** : a person with psychedelic social and cultural interests and orientation

psychic energizer *n* : an antidepressant drug

psy·cho·active \,sīkō+\ *adj* [*psych-* + *active*] : affecting the mind or behavior ⟨~ drugs⟩

psy·cho·chemical \"+\ *n* [*psych-* + ²*chemical*] : a chemical that alters mental functioning; *esp* : a chemical warfare agent (as a war gas) that acts on nervous centers and makes affected individuals temporarily helpless — **psychochemical** *adj*

psy·cho·pharmaceutical \"+\ *n* [*psych-* + ²*pharmaceutical*] : a drug having an effect on the mental state of a person

psy·cho·quack \'sīkō+,\ *n* [*psych-* + ³*quack*] : an unqualified psychologist or psychiatrist — **psy·cho·quackery** \,sīkō+\ *n*

psy·chot·o·gen \sī'kätə·jən\ *n* -s [*psychotic* + *-o-* + *-gen*] : a chemical agent (as a drug) that induces a psychotic state — **psy·chot·o·gen·ic** \(,)sī,kätə·'jenik\ *adj*

psy·choto·mimetic \sī,kätō +\ *adj* [*psychotic* + *-o-* + *mimetic*] : of, relating to, or involving psychotic alteration of behavior and personality — **psychotomimetic** *n* -s — **psy·choto·mimetically** \" +\ *adv*

psy·cho·toxic \,sīkə+\ *adj* [*psych-* + *toxic*] : damaging to the mind; *specif* : of, relating to, or being a habituating drug (as amphetamine) which is not a true narcotic but the use of which may be correlated with delinquency and crime

PTV *abbr* public television *herein*

public television *n* : television that provides cultural, informational, and instructional programs for the public and that does not promote the sale of a product or service except for identifying the donors of program funds : noncommercial television

pul·sar \'pəl,sär\ *n* -s [*pulse* + *-ar* (as in *quasar* — herein)] : any of various stellar objects characterized by the emission of very intense radio energy at short regular intervals

pump* *n* **1** : electromagnetic radiation for pumping atoms or molecules **2** : the process of pumping atoms or molecules **3** : a device for pumping atoms or molecules

pump* *vt* : to change equilibrium populations of energy levels of (atoms or molecules) by strong electromagnetic radiation at one of the resonant frequencies so that stimulation of emission may occur at another frequency resulting in amplification or sustained oscillation — compare LASER, MASER *in the Dict*

put down* *vt* **1 a** : BELITTLE, DISPARAGE ⟨many writers want to *put down* not only their interviewers but their critics —Melvin Maddocks⟩ **b** : DISAPPROVE, CRITICIZE ⟨*put down* for the way he dressed⟩ **2** : DEFLATE, SQUELCH ⟨nothing beastlier than a woman who *puts* a man *down* on the air —Pamela Mason⟩

put-down \'ˌ,ˌ\ *n* -s [*put down* (herein)] : an act or instance of putting down; *esp* : a deflating remark

put-on* *n* -s : an instance of putting someone on ⟨couldn't decide whether the question was serious or just a *put-on*⟩; *also* : PARODY, SPOOF ⟨a kind of *put-on* of every pretentious film ever made —C.A.Ridley⟩

py·re·throid \pī'rē,thrȯid, -re-\ *n* -s [*pyrethrin* + ¹*-oid*] : any of various synthetic compounds related to and resembling in insecticidal properties the pyrethrins — **pyrethroid** *adj*

qi·vi·ut \'kēvē,üt\ *n* [Esk] : the wool of the undercoat of the musk-ox that is held to be comparable to cashmere

quan·ta·some \'kwäntə,sōm\ *n* -s [prob. fr. *quanta*, pl. of *quantum* + ³*-some*] : one of the chlorophyll-containing spheroids found in the grana of chloroplasts

quantized *adj* [fr. past part. of *quantize*] : characterized by the property of taking on only discrete values

quantum electronics *n pl but sing in constr* : a branch of physics that deals with the interaction of radiation with discrete energy levels in substances (as in a maser or laser)

quark \'kwȯrk\ *n* -s [coined by Murray Gell-Mann *b*1929 Amer. physicist] : a hypothetical particle that carries an electric charge and that is held to be a constituent of known elementary particles

qua·sar \'kwā,zär, 'kwä-, -,sär\ *n* -s [*quasi*-stellar radio source (herein)] : QUASI-STELLAR RADIO SOURCE *herein*

qua·si·mo·do \,k(w)äzə'mō(,)dō, -äsə-\ *n* -s *usu cap* [after *Quasimodo*, hunchback in Victor Hugo's novel *Notre-Dame de Paris* (1831)] : a surfing feat in which a surfer squats on the board, leans forward, and extends one arm straight forward and the other straight back

qua·si·par·ti·cle \ˌ=(,)=ˌ=ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* [²*quasi* + *particle*] : a composite entity (as a vibration in a solid) that is analogous in its behavior to a single particle

quasi-stellar object \ˌ=(,)=ˌ=ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* : QUASI-STELLAR RADIO SOURCE *herein*

quasi-stellar radio source \ˌ=(,)=ˌ=ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* [*quasi-stellar* fr. ¹*quasi-* + *stellar*] : any of various very distant celestial objects which resemble a star but emit unusually bright blue and ultraviolet light and powerful radio waves

quas·qui·centennial \,kwäskwē, -kwə+\ *n* -s [fr. L *quadrans* quarter, after L *semis* half : E *sesquicentennial* — more at QUADRANT, SESQUI-] : a 125th anniversary — **quasquicentennial** *adj*

queen size *adj* **1** : having dimensions of approximately 60 inches by 80 inches — used of a bed **2** : of a size that fits a queen size bed ⟨a *queen size* bedspread⟩

quick kick *n* : a punt in football made on first, second, or third down from a running or passing formation and designed to take the opposing team by surprise

rack car* *n* : a railroad flatcar equipped with a 2-level or 3-level framework for transporting motor vehicles

radar astronomy *n* : astronomy dealing with investigations of celestial bodies in the solar system by comparing the characteristics of a reflected radar wave with the characteristics of one transmitted from the earth

radar telescope *n* : a radar transmitter-receiver with an antenna for use in radar astronomy

radial-ply tire *or* **radial tire** *n* : a pneumatic tire in which the ply cords that extend to the beads are laid at approximately 90 degrees to the center line of the tread

ra·di·esthesia \,rādē+\ *n* -s [NL, fr. L *radius* ray + NL *esthesia* — more at RAY] **1** : sensitiveness held to enable a person with the aid of a divining rod or pendulum to detect things (as the presence of underground water, the nature of an illness, or the guilt of a suspected person); *also* : DOWSING, DIVINING **2** : a study that deals with radiesthesia

ra·dio·ecology \,rādē(,)ō+\ *n* [*radio-* + *ecology*] : the study of the interaction of ecological communities and radiations or radioactive substances — **ra·dio·ecological** \"+\ *adj* — **ra·dio·ecologist** \"+\ *n*

radio galaxy *n* : a visible or photographable galaxy that includes a source from which radio energy is detected

ra·dio·isotopic \,rādē(,)ō+\ *adj* [*radioisotope* + *-ic*] : of, relating to, or being a radioisotope — **ra·dio·isotopically** \"+\ *adv*

ra·dio·pharmaceutical \"+\ *n* [*radio-* + ²*pharmaceutical*] : a radioactive drug used for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes

ra·dio·protective \"+\ *adj* [*radio-* + *protective*] : serving to protect or aiding in protecting against the injurious effect of radiations ⟨~ drugs⟩ — **ra·dio·protection** \"+\ *n*

ra·dio·sterilized \"+\ *adj* [*radio-* + *sterilized*] : sterilized by irradiation (as with X rays or gamma rays) ⟨~ mosquitoes⟩ ⟨~ syringes⟩ — **ra·dio·sterilization** \"+\ *n*

ra·dio–ulna \"+\ *n* [NL, fr. *radius* (fr. L) + *-o-* + *ulna*] : a bone in the forelimb of an amphibian (as a frog) representing the fused radius and ulna of higher forms

rand \'rand, -ä-\ *n, pl* **rand** *or* **rands** [fr. the *Rand* (*Witwatersrand*), gold-producing district in So. Africa] **1 a** : the basic monetary unit of the Republic of So. Africa established in 1961 — see MONEY table *in the Dict* **b** : the basic monetary unit of Botswana, Lesotho, and Swaziland **2** : a coin or note representing one rand

R and B *abbr* rhythm and blues

R and D *abbr or n* : research and development — usu. written *R & D*

random-access *adj* : permitting access to stored data in any order the user desires ⟨*random-access* computer memory⟩

¹rap \'rap\ *n* [perh. by shortening & alter. fr. *repartee*] : TALK, CONVERSATION

²rap *vi* : to talk freely and frankly ⟨down at the corner bar *rapping* —*Newsweek*⟩ — **rap·per** *n* -s

rapid eye movement *n* : rapid conjugate movement of the eyes associated with a state of sleep characterized by changes in brain waves and heart rhythm, relaxed muscles, and dreaming

rapture of the deep : a confused mental state caused by nitrogen forced into a diver's bloodstream from atmospheric air under pressure

rate of change : a value that results from dividing the change of a function of a variable by the change in the variable

rat fink *n* : FINK *herein*

ratio *vt* -ED/-ING/-S [*ratio*, n.] **1** : to express as a ratio **2** : to make proportionate **3** : to enlarge or reduce the size of (a photograph) in accordance with a ratio

RBE *abbr* relative biological effectiveness *herein*

read* *vt* **1** : to sense the meaning of (information) in recorded and coded form (as in storage) : acquire (information) from storage — used of a computer or data processor **2** : to read the coded information on (as tape or a punched card)

readout* *n* **1** : the process of reading **2 a** : the process of removing information from an automatic device (as an electronic computer) and displaying it in an understandable form **b** : the information removed from such a device and displayed or recorded (as by magnetic tape or printing device) **c** : a device used for readout **3** : the radio transmission of data or pictures from a space vehicle either immediately upon acquisition or later by means of playback of a tape recording

readymade** *n* -s : an artifact (as a comb or a pair of ice tongs) selected and displayed as a work of art

real time *n* **1** : the actual time in which a physical process takes place — used in reference to a process controlled by a computer **2** : the actual time in which an event takes place with the reporting on or recording of the event practically simultaneous with its occurrence — **real-time** *adj*

receptor* *n* : a cellular entity (as a beta-receptor or alpha-receptor) that is postulated as the intermediary between a chemical agent (as a neurohumor) acting on nervous tissue and the physiological or pharmacological response

re·charter \"+\ *vt* [*re-* + ²*charter*] : to grant a new charter to ⟨~*ed* the national bank⟩ — **recharter** *n*

recursion* *n* : the determination of a succession of elements (as numbers or functions) by operation on one or more preceding elements according to a rule or formula involving a finite number of steps

re·cur·sive \rə'kərsiv, rē'-\ *adj* [²*recursion* + *-ive*] **1** : of, relating to, or involving mathematical recursion **2 a** : capable of repeated application **b** : involving the repeated application of a procedure until a specified condition is satisfied with the testing for the condition included in the procedure itself ⟨~ techniques in computer programming⟩ — compare ITERATIVE *herein* — **re·cur·sive·ly** *adv* — **re·cur·sive·ness** *n*

re·cycle* \(')rē+\ *vb* ~ *vt* **1** : to pass (as liquid body wastes) continuously through a purification process in order to produce a product fit for human use **2** : to cause (as an electric generator) to accelerate gradually in bringing up to full power production ~ *vi* **1** : to stop the counting and return to an earlier point in a countdown **2** : to return to an original condition so that operation can begin again — used of an electronic device

redbrick \'ˌ=, *attrib also* ˌ=ˌ=\ *adj, sometimes cap* [*red* + *brick*; fr. common use of red brick in constructing the buildings of recently founded universities] : of, relating to, or being the British universities founded in modern times — compare OXBRIDGE *herein*

red guard *n, usu cap R&G* [¹*red* (communist) + *guard*] : a member of a teen-age activist organization in China serving the Maoist party

redshirt* *n* [¹*red* + *shirt*; fr. the red jersey commonly worn by such a player in practice scrimmages against the regulars] : a college athlete who is kept out of varsity competition for a year in order to extend the period of his eligibility to a more mature age — **redshirting** \'ˌ=ˌ=\ *n* -s

redundant* *adj* : designed to serve as a substitute in case of failure (as of a subsystem) for preventing failure of an entire device or system ⟨~ electronic equipment on a spacecraft⟩

region* *n* : a set of points such that if a point belongs to the set then a neighborhood of the point also belongs to the set

reinforce* *vb* ~ *vt* **1** : to stimulate (as an experimental animal or a student) with a reinforcer following a correct or desired performance **2** : to encourage (a response) with a reinforcer

reinforcer* *n* : a stimulus (as a reward or the removal of discomfort) that is effective in operant conditioning because it regularly follows a desired response

rejective art *n* : MINIMAL ART *herein*

relative biological effectiveness *n* : the relative capacity of a particular ionizing radiation to produce a response in a biological system — abbr. *RBE*

relativistic* *adj* **1** : moving at a high velocity exceeding one tenth that of light so that there is a significant change in mass and other properties in accordance with the theory of relativity ⟨a ~ electron⟩ **2** : of or relating to a relativistic particle

REM \,ir(,)ē'em, 'rem\ *abbr or n* -s rapid eye movement *herein*

re·no·gram \'rēnə,gram\ *n* -s [*reno-* + *gram*] : a photographic depiction of the course of excretion of a radioactively labeled substance — **re·nog·ra·phy** \rē'nägrəfē, rə'-\ *n* -ES

reo·virus \'rēō+\ *n* [respiratory enteric orphan *virus*] : any of a group of rather large, widely distributed, and possibly tumorigenic viruses with double-stranded RNA

repertory* *n* — **in repertory** *adv* : in the manner of a repertory theater ⟨presents four plays *in repertory*⟩

repressor* *n* : a product of the action of a regulator gene that interacts with an operator gene and inhibits its function

re·prog·ra·phy \rə'prägrəfē, rē'p-\ *n* -ES [ISV *reproduction* + *-graphy*] : the facsimile reproduction (as by photocopying) of graphic matter (as books or documents) — **re·prog·ra·pher** \-fə(r)\ *n* -S — **re·pro·graph·ic** \'rēprə'grafik, ˌrep-\ *adj*

re·segregation \(ˌ)rē+\ *n* [*re-* + *segregation*] : a return (as of a school) to a state of segregation after an initial period of desegregation

residual* *n* : a payment (as to an actor or writer) for each rerun (as of a TV tape) esp. of a commercial

residual security *n* : common stock or a security convertible into common stock

resilience* *n* : an ability to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or change

resistance* *n* : RESISTANCE LEVEL *herein*

resistance level *or* **resistance area** *n* : a price level on a rising market at which a security resists further advance due to increased attractiveness of the price to potential sellers

re·sis·to·jet \rə'zistō,jet, rē'z-\ *n* [*resistance* + *-o-* + *jet*] : a small reaction engine that uses electrically heated hydrogen or ammonia as a propellant and that produces small thrust (as for satellite control)

resonance* *n* **1 a** : the enhancement of an atomic, nuclear, or particle reaction or a scattering event by excitation of internal motion in the system **b** : MAGNETIC RESONANCE **2** : an extremely short-lived elementary particle

respondent* *n* : a reflex that occurs in response to a specific external stimulus ⟨the knee jerk is a typical ~⟩

res·sen·ti·ment \rə-sät-tē-mät\ *n* -s [G, fr. F, resentment — more at RESENTMENT] : resentment expressed indirectly esp. by belittling the values esteemed by the hated individual

ret·ro–engine \'re·trō *sometimes* -ē··+\ *n* : a rocket engine on a space vehicle that thrusts in a direction opposite to that of the motion of the vehicle in order to decelerate it

ret·ro·fire \"+\ *vi* [*retro-* + ²*fire*] : to ignite a retro-engine — **retrofire** *n*

retrograde* *adj* : being or relating to the rotation of a satellite in a direction opposite to that of the body being orbited

ret·ro·reflector \,re·trō *sometimes* -ē··+\ *n* [*retro-* + *reflector*] : a device that reflects radiation (as light) so that the paths of the rays are parallel to those of the incident rays

reu·ben sandwich \,rübən-\ *n, usu cap R* [fr. the name *Reuben*] : a grilled sandwich consisting of corned beef, Swiss cheese, and sauerkraut usu. on rye bread

re·vanch·ism \rə'vänˌshizəm\ *n* -s [*revanche* + *-ism*] : REVANCHE ⟨a policy of nationalistic ~ —Bernard Fall⟩

re·vascularization \(ˌ)rē+\ *n* -s [*re-* + *vascular* + *-ization*] : a surgical procedure for the provision of a new, additional, or augmented blood supply to a body part or organ

reverse osmosis *n* : the flow of fresh water through a semipermeable membrane when pressure is applied to a solution (as seawater) on one side of it

rheumatoid factor *n* : a gamma globulin of high molecular weight that is usu. present in rheumatoid arthritis and that behaves like an autoantibody

rhi·no·virus \'rīnō+\ *n* [NL, fr. *rhin-* + *virus*] : any of a group of picornaviruses that are related to the enteroviruses and associated with upper respiratory tract disorders

rho* *or* **rho particle** *n* : a very short-lived unstable meson with mass 1490 times the mass of an electron

rhythm and blues *n* : popular music with elements of blues and Negro folk music

ribosomal RNA \-ˌ,ü,re'nā\ *n* -s : the part of the RNA that is a fundamental structural element to the ribosome

ri·bo·some \'rībəˌsōm\ *n* -s [*ribo*nucleic acid + ³*-some*] : any of the RNA-rich cytoplasmic granules that function in protein and enzyme synthesis — **ri·bo·som·al** \ˌ=ˈsōməl\ *adj*

rich·ter scale \'riktə(r)-\ *n, usu cap R* [after Charles F. *Richter b*1900 Am. seismologist] : a logarithmic scale for expressing the magnitude of a seismic disturbance (as an earthquake) in terms of the energy dissipated in it with 1.5 indicating the smallest earthquake that can be felt, 4.5 an earthquake causing slight damage, and 8.5 a very devastating earthquake

ricky–tick \'rikē,tik\ *n* [imit.] : sweet jazz of a style reminiscent of the 1920s — **ricky-ticky** \-tikē\ *adj*

right-to-work law *n* : any of various state laws banning the closed shop and the union shop

RNAase \,ä,re'nā,ās, -,āz\ *abbr or n* -S [*RNA* + *-ase*] : RIBONUCLEASE

ro·bot·ics \rō'bädiks\ *n pl but sing in constr* [*robot* + *-ics*] : a field of interest concerned with the construction, maintenance, and behavior of robots ⟨~ is a major science fiction theme⟩

rock·a·bil·ly \'räkəˌbilē\ *n* [*rock and* roll + *hillbilly*] : pop music marked by features of rock, country, and western styles

ro·la·mite \'rōləˌmīt\ *n* -s [*roll* + *-amite*, of unknown origin] : a nearly frictionless elementary mechanism consisting of two or more rollers inserted in the loops of a flexible metal or plastic band with the band acting to turn the rollers whose movement can be directed to perform various functions

roll bar *n* : an overhead metal bar on an automobile designed to protect an occupant in case of a turnover

roll cage *n* : a protective framework of metal bars encasing the driver of a racing car

roller hockey *n* : a variation of ice hockey that is played on roller skates

roll out* *vi* : to circle to the right or left before passing or running ⟨the quarterback would either hand off to the fullback or fake to him and *roll out* —Arthur Sampson⟩

rollout** *n* : an offensive play in football in which the quarterback rolls out

rose medallion *n* : a chiefly 19th century enamel-decorated Chinese porcelain with medallions of oriental figures surrounded and separated by panels of flowers and butterflies

ruly english *n, cap E* : an artificial English for use in computers in which each word has a single conceptual meaning and each concept a single word to describe it

rya \'rēə\ *n* -S [fr. *Rya*, village in southwest Sweden] : a Scandinavian handwoven rug with a deep resilient comparatively flat pile; *also* : the weave typical of this rug

sailboard \'ˌ=ˌ=\ *n* [*sail* + *board*] : a small flat sailboat that is designed for one or two passengers

sal·uret·ic \,salyə'red·ik\ *n* -s [L *sal* salt + E *diuretic* — more at SALT] : a drug that facilitates the urinary excretion of salt and esp. of sodium ion — **saluretic** \ˌ=ˈ=ˌ=\ *adj* — **sal·u·ret·i·cal·ly** \-ˌred·ək(ə)lē\ *adv*

SAM \'sam, ,e(,)sā'em\ *abbr or n* -s surface-to-air missile

san·da ware \'sandə-, 'sän-\ *n, usu cap S* [fr. *Sanda*, town in western Honshu, Japan, where it originated] : a Japanese pottery and esp. porcelain ware produced since the late 17th century and noted for its celadons

sandwich shop *n* : LUNCHEONETTE

sanitize* *vt* : to make more acceptable by removing unpleasant or undesired features ⟨~ a document⟩

sa·ran·gi \'särən,gē\ *n* -S [Skt *sārāṅgī*] : a bowed stringed musical instrument of India with a tone similar to that of the viola

satellite* *n* : a usu. independent urban community situated near but not immediately adjacent to a large city

saturated diving *n* : SATURATION DIVING *herein* — **saturated diver** *n*

saturation diving *n* : diving in which a person remains underwater at a certain depth breathing a mixture of gases under pressure until his body becomes saturated with the gases so that decompression time remains the same regardless of how long he remains at that depth — **saturation dive** *n*

scam·pi \'skampē, -im-\ *n, pl* **scampi** [It, pl. of *scampo* Norway lobster] : SHRIMP; *esp* : large shrimp prepared with a garlic-flavored sauce

scan* *vt* : to make a detailed examination of (as a human body) for the presence or localization of radioactive material

scan* *n* **1** : a depiction (as a photograph) of the distribution of radioactive material in something (as a body organ) **2** : COLOR SEPARATION

scattering matrix *n* : S MATRIX

scene* *n* : a sphere of activity : a way of life ⟨the hippie ~⟩

schlepp \'shlep\ *or* **schlep·per** \-ep(ə(r)\ *also* **shlepp** *or* **shlep·per** *n* -S [Yiddish *shiep*, *shleper*, fr. *shlepen* to drag, pull, jerk — more at SCHLEPP, vb.] : an awkward or incompetent person

schlock *also* **shlock** \'shläk\ *adj* [Yiddish *shlak*, lit., blow, apoplectic stroke, curse, fr. MHG *slag*, *slac*, fr. OHG *slag*, fr. *slahan* to strike — more at SLAY] : of low quality or little worth ⟨~ books⟩ ⟨~ merchandise⟩ — **schlock** *n* -S

schussboomer \'ˌ=,=ˌ=\ *n* [*schuss* + *¹boomer*] : one who skis usu. straight downhill at high speed

sci·en·tol·o·gy \,sīən·'täləjē\ *n, usu cap* [L *scientia* science + E *-o-* + *-logy* — more at SCIENCE] : a religious movement begun in 1952 by L. Ron Hubbard which teaches that man has an immortal spirit that is subject to reincarnation and that increased spiritual awareness and cures for mental and physical illnesses can be achieved through a form of psychotherapy

sci–fi \'sī,fī\ *adj* [*science fiction*] : of, relating to, or being science fiction ⟨*sci-fi* writers⟩ ⟨*sci-fi* stories⟩

scouse \'skaůs\ *n* -S *cap* [back-formation fr. *Scouser* (herein)] **1** : a dialect of English spoken in Liverpool **2** : SCOUSER *herein*

scous·er \'skaůsə(r)\ *n, cap* [*scouse* (in the Dict.) + *-er*; fr. the popularity of lobscouse in Liverpool] : a native or inhabitant of Liverpool

scramble* *vi, of a football quarterback* : to leave the protection of the blockers on a pass play and run with the ball
scramble* *n* : a motorcycle race over a rough hilly course
scram·jet \'skram,jet\ *n* [supersonic combustion *ramjet*] : a ramjet airplane engine in which thrust is produced by burning fuel in a supersonic airstream after the airplane has attained supersonic speed by other means of propulsion
screening test *n* : a preliminary or abridged test intended to eliminate the less probable members of an experimental series
screwbean mesquite \ˌ⁼ˌ⁼-\ *n* [*screw bean* + *mesquite*] : SCREW BEAN 1
SDRs \ˌes(ˌ)dē'ärz\ *n pl* [special *d*rawing *r*ights] : a proposed international means of exchange for use by governments in settling their international indebtedness
seat* *n* : a precise or accurate contact between parts or surfaces
secondary* *n* : SECONDARY DISTRIBUTION
secondary derivative *n* : a word (as *teacher*) whose immediate constituents are a free form and a bound form
secondary offering *n* : SECONDARY *herein*
seed money *n* : money used for setting up a new enterprise
sel·e·nod·e·sy \ˌselə'nädəsē\ *n* [*selen-* + *-odesy* (as in *geodesy*)] : a branch of physical science that deals with determination of the shape and size of the moon and of the exact positions of points on it and with the variations of lunar gravity — **sel·e·no·det·ic** \ˌselənō'ded·ik\ *adj*
self-dealing \ˈ⁼ˌ⁼\ *n* : financial dealing that is not at arm's length; *esp* : borrowing from or lending to a company by a controlling individual primarily to his own advantage
self-destruct \ˌ⁼ˌ⁼\ *vi* : to destroy itself
selling climax *n* : a sharp decline in stock prices for a short time on very heavy trading volume followed by a rally
semi-automated \ˌsemē, -ˌmī, -ˌmi+\ *adj* [*semi-* + *automated*, past part. of *automate*] : partly automated
semi-comatose \ˌsemē, -ˌmī, -ˌmä+\ *adj* [*semi-* + *comatose*] : lethargic and disoriented but not completely comatose
send-up \ˈ⁼ˌ⁼\ *n* [Brit slang *send up* to take off, parody] *chiefly Brit* : PARODY, TAKEOFF
sen·gi \'seŋgē\ *n, pl* **sengi** [native name in the Congo] : a monetary unit of the Republic of the Congo (Kinshasa) equal to $\frac{1}{100}$ likuta or $\frac{1}{10,000}$ zaire — see MONEY table *in the Dict*
sen·i·ti \'senətē\ *n, pl* **seniti** [Tongan, modif. of E *cent*] **1** : a monetary unit of Tonga equal to $\frac{1}{100}$ pa'anga — see MONEY table *in the Dict* **2** : a coin representing one seniti
sensitivity training *n* : training designed to enhance interpersonal relations based typically on exploration by a small interacting group of the behavior, needs, and responses of the individuals making up the group
sequential *n* -s [*sequential*, adj.] : an oral contraceptive in which the pills taken during approximately the first three weeks contain only estrogen and those taken during the rest of the cycle contain both estrogen and progestogen
se·ri·al·ism \'sirēəˌlizəm, 'sēr-\ *n* -s [*serial* + *-ism*] : serial music; *also* : the theory or practice of composing serial music
service module *n* : a space vehicle module containing propellant tanks, fuel cells, and the main rocket engine
se·to ware \'sā,tō-, 'se-\ *also* **seto** *n, usu cap S* [fr. *Seto*, city in central Honshu, Japan, where it originated] : a Japanese ceramic ware traditionally produced since the 10th century comprising in its earlier period earthenwares often based on contemporaneous Chinese and Korean porcelains, later high-fired stonewares sometimes with notable brown, black, yellow, or celadon glazes, and from the end of the 18th century chiefly porcelain often decorated with underglaze blue
sex* *n* : GENITALIA
sexi·decimal \ˌseksə, -ksē+\ *adj* [*sex-* + *-decimal* (as in *duodecimal*)] : of, relating to, or being a system of numbers having 16 as a base ⟨use of a ~ notation in binary computers⟩
sey·fert galaxy \'sīfərt-\ *n, usu cap S* [after Carl K. *Seyfert* †1960 Amer. astronomer] : any of a class of spiral galaxies that have very compact and intensely bright nuclei whose emission spectra show that the atoms are in a high state of excitation and are traveling at high speeds
shade* *n* **shades** *pl* : SUNGLASSES
sha·ku·ha·chi \ˌshäkə'hächē\ *n, pl* **shakuhachi** [Jap] : a Japanese bamboo flute
shatter cone *n* : a conical fragment of rock that has striations radiating from the apex and is formed by high pressure (as from volcanism or meteorite impact)
shell* *n* : a plain usu. sleeveless overblouse
shih tzu \'shēd-'zü\ *n, usu cap S&T* [Chin (Pek) *shih*[1] *tzŭ*[3] *kou*[3] Pekingese dog, fr. *shih*[1] lion + *tzŭ*[3] son + *kou*[3] dog] : a small alert active dog of an old Chinese breed that has a square short unwrinkled muzzle, short muscular legs, and massive amounts of long dense hair
ship* *n* : SPACECRAFT
shoot* *vt* : to inject (an addictive drug) directly into the bloodstream — **shoot the curl** *or* **shoot the tube** : to surf into or through the curl of a wave — **shoot the pier** : to surf between the pilings of an ocean pier
short position* *n* : the market position of a trader who has made but not yet covered a short sale
short-term* *adj* : generated by assets held six months or less
showboat* *n* : one who tries to attract attention by conspicuous behavior
showboat *vi* [*showboat* n. (herein)] : to show off
shrink-wrap \'ˈ⁼ˌ⁼\ *vt* [*shrink* + *wrap*] : to wrap (as a book or meat) in tough clear plastic film that is then shrunk (as by heating) to form a tightly fitting package
shtick *also* **schtick** \'shtik\ *n* -s [Yiddish *shtik*, lit., piece, fr. MHG *stücke*, fr. OHG *stucki* — more at STOCK] : a theatrical routine : BIT
shun·pik·er \'shən,pīkə(r)\ *n* -s [*shunpike* + *-er*] : one who engages in shunpiking
shun·pik·ing \-kiŋ\ *n* -s [*shunpike* + *-ing*] : the practice of avoiding superhighways esp. for the pleasure of driving on back roads
side-straddle hop *n* : JUMPING-JACK *herein*
sigma* *or* **sigma particle** *n* : an unstable elementary particle of the baryon family existing in positive, negative, and neutral charge states with masses respectively 2328, 2343, and 2333 times the mass of an electron
sign on* \ˈ(ˌ)ˌ⁼\ *vi* : to announce the start of broadcasting for the day — **sign-on** \ˈˌ⁼\ *n* -s
silky terrier *n* : a low-set toy terrier that weighs 8 to 10 pounds, has a flat silky glossy coat colored blue with tan on the head, chest, and legs, and is derived from crosses of the Australian terrier with the Yorkshire terrier
sil·vex \'sil,veks\ *n* -es [irreg. fr. L *silva* wood] : a selective herbicide that is esp. effective in controlling woody plants
sil·vi·chemical \ˌsilvə+\ *n* [L *silva* wood + E *-i-* + *chemical*] : any of numerous chemicals derived from a part of a tree
si·ma·zine \'sīməˌzēn\ *n* -s [*sim-* (prob. alter. of *²sym-*) + *triazine*] : a selective herbicide used to control weeds
simulate* *vt* : to make a simulation of (as a physical system)
simulation* *n* **1** : the imitative representation of the functioning of one system or process by means of the functioning of another ⟨a computer ~ of an industrial process⟩ **2** : examination of a problem often not subject to direct experimentation by means of a simulator (as a programmed computer)
singlet* *n* : an elementary particle not part of a multiplet
situation comedy *n* : a radio or television comedy series that involves a continuing cast of characters in a succession of unconnected episodes
situation ethics *n* [trans. of G *situationsethik*] : a system of ethics which is based on love and by which acts are judged within their contexts instead of by categorical principles
skateboard \ˈˌ⁼ˌ⁼\ *n* [*²skate* + *¹board*] : a narrow board about two feet long mounted on roller-skate wheels — **skate·board·ing** \-iŋ\ *n* -s — **skate·board·er** \-ər\ *n* -s
skibob \ˈˌ⁼ˌ⁼\ *n* [*ski* + *⁵bob*] : a vehicle that has two short skis one behind the other, a steering handle attached to the forward ski, and a low upholstered seat over the rear ski and that is used for gliding downhill over snow by a rider wearing miniature skis for balance — **ski·bob·ber** \-ə(r)\ *n* — **ski·bob·bing** \-iŋ\ *n*
skif·fle \'skifəl\ *n* -s [perh. imit.] : jazz or folk music played by a group consisting of or including nonstandard instruments or noisemakers (as jugs, washboards, or jew's harps)
skimmer* *n* : a fitted sleeveless usu. flaring sheathlike dress
skimming* *n* : the practice of fraudulently reporting gambling income (as of a casino) so as to avoid full tax payments
skin flick *n* : a motion picture characterized by nudity and explicit sexual situations
skin-ny-dip·ping \'skinēˌdipiŋ\ *n* [*¹skin* + *¹-y* + *dipping*, gerund of *¹dip*] : swimming in the nude — **skin-ny-dip·per** \-pər\ *n*
skiwear \'ˈˌ⁼\ *n* [*²ski* + *²wear*] : clothing suitable for wear while skiing
sky·div·ing \'skīˌdīviŋ\ *n* -s [*¹sky* + *diving*, gerund of *dive*] : the sport of jumping from an airplane at a moderate altitude (as 6000 feet) and executing various tumbles and dives before pulling the rip cord of a parachute — **sky diver** *n*
sky·jack·er \'skīˌjakə(r)\ *n* -s [*sky* + *-jacker* (as in *hijacker*)] : one who commandeers a flying airplane (as by coercing the pilot at gunpoint) — **sky·jack·ing** \-akiŋ\ *n* -s
skylounge \ˈˌ⁼\ *n* [*sky* + *lounge*] : a vehicle that picks up passengers and is then carried by a helicopter between a downtown terminal and an airport
slap shot *n* : a shot in ice hockey that is made with a swinging stroke so that the puck often leaves the ice
slot car *n* : an electric toy racing automobile that has an arm underneath fitting into a groove for guidance and metal strips alongside the groove for supplying electricity and that is remotely controlled by the operator's hand-held rheostat
slot racing *n* : the racing of slot cars — **slot racer** *n*
slow-pitch \ˈˌ⁼\ *also* **slo-pitch** *n* : softball played with 10 men on each side in which each pitch must describe an arc from 3 to 10 feet high in order to be legal and in which base stealing is not permitted
slugging average *n* : the average of a baseball batter determined by dividing the number of official times at bat into the total number of bases reached on hits
slumlord \ˈˌ⁼\ *n* -s [*slum* + land*lord*] : a landlord who receives inflated rents from substandard neglected properties
slurbs \'slərbz\ *n pl* [*sl-* (as in *sloppy, sleazy, slovenly, slipshod*) + *suburbs*] : suburbs characterized by wearisomely uniform and usu. poorly constructed houses
s matrix *n, usu cap S* : a unitary matrix in quantum mechanics the absolute values of the squares of whose elements are equal to probabilities of transition between different states — called also *scattering matrix*
smog·less \'ˈləs\ *adj* [*smog* + *-less*] **1** : marked by the absence of smog ⟨a ~ city⟩ **2** : emitting no fumes that would contribute to the production of smog ⟨~ cars of the future⟩
snow·mo·bil·ing \ˈˌ⁼ˌbēliŋ\ *n* [*snowmobile* + *-ing*] : the sport of driving or racing a snowmobile — **snow·mo·bil·er** \-lə(r)\ *also* **snow·mo·bil·ist** \-ləst\ *n* -s
socialist realism *n* [trans. of Russ *sotsialicheskiĭ realizm*] : a theory of Soviet art, music, and literature that calls for the didactic use of artistic work to develop social consciousness in an evolving socialist state — **socialist realist** *n*
so·cio·linguistic \ˌsōs(h)ē(ˌ)ō+\ *adj* [*socio-* + *linguistic*] **1** : of or relating to the social aspects of language **2** : of or relating to sociolinguistics
so·cio·linguistics \ˈ⁼+\ *n* [*socio-* + *linguistics*] : the study of linguistic behavior as determined by sociocultural factors (as social class or educational level)
so·cio·religious \ˌsōs(h)ēō+\ *adj* [*socio-* + *religious*] : involving a combination of social and religious factors
sodium stearate *n* : a white powdery salt $C_{17}H_{35}COONa$ that is soluble in water, is the chief constituent of some laundry soaps, and is used esp. in cosmetics and toothpaste
soft* *adj* **1** : occurring at such a speed and under such circumstances as to avoid destructive impact ⟨~ landing of a spacecraft on the moon⟩ **2** : not protected against enemy attack ⟨a ~ aboveground launching site⟩ **3** *of a detergent* : BIODEGRADABLE *herein* **4** *of a drug* : considered less detrimental than a hard narcotic ⟨marijuana is usu. regarded as a *soft* drug⟩
softbound \ˈˌ⁼\ *adj* [*¹soft* + *⁴bound*] : not bound in hard covers ⟨~ books⟩
soft-land \ˈˌ⁼\ *vb* [back-formation fr. *soft landing*] *vi* : to make a landing on a celestial body (as the moon) at such a slow speed that there is neither destruction nor serious damage ~ *vt* : to cause to soft-land — **soft-land·er** *n* -s
soft paste* *n* **1** : a fine-grained opaque Chinese ceramic ware related to true porcelain but having part of the kaolin replaced by pegmatite and usu. being fired twice **2** : a lightweight soft opaque clay body (as of early Staffordshire)
software \ˈˌ⁼\ *n* [*soft* + *⁴ware*] : the features of an apparatus or system that are not hardware ⟨the designing and installation of a computer and programs for a computer are ~⟩
soilborne \ˈˌ⁼ˌ⁼\ *adj* [*³soil* + *¹borne*] : transmitted by or in soil ⟨~ fungi⟩
so·ka gak·kai \ˌsōkəˈgäˌkī\ *n, usu cap S & G* [Jap *Sōka Gakkai*, fr. *sōka* creation + *gakkai* learned society] : a Japanese sect of Buddhism that emphasizes active proselytism and the use of prayer for the solution of all human problems
solar cell *n* : a photovoltaic cell (as one including a junction between two types of silicon semiconductors) that is able to convert sunlight into electrical energy and is used (as in artificial satellites) as a power source
solar panel *n* : a battery of solar cells (as in a spacecraft)
solar sail *n* : a propulsive device that consists of a flat material (as aluminized plastic) designed to receive thrust from solar radiation pressure and that can be attached to a spacecraft
solar wind *n* : the continuous ejection of plasma from the sun's surface into and through interplanetary space
solid-state \ˈˌ⁼ˌ⁼\ *adj* **1** : relating to the properties, structure, or reactivity of solid material; *specif* : relating to the arrangement or behavior of ions, molecules, nucleons, electrons, and holes in the crystals of a substance (as a semiconductor) or to the effect of crystal imperfections on the properties of a solid substance **2** : utilizing the electric, magnetic, or photic properties of solid materials : not utilizing electron tubes
so·ma·to·sensory \ˌsōməd·ə+\ *adj* [*somat-* + *sensory*] : of, relating to, or being sensory activity having its origin elsewhere than in the special sense organs (as eyes or ears) and conveying information about the state of the body proper and its immediate environment
son·i·cate \'sänəˌkāt\ *vt* -ED/-ING/-S [*sonic* + *⁴-ate*] : to disrupt (as biological material) by treatment with high-frequency sound waves — **son·i·ca·tion** \ˌsänə'kāshən\ *n* -s
sono·chemistry \ˌsänō, ˌsōnō+\ *n* [*son-* + *chemistry*] : a branch of chemistry that deals with the chemical effects of ultrasound — **sono·chemical** \ˈ⁼+\ *adj*
soul* *n* **1** : a strong positive feeling (as of intense sensitivity and emotional fervor) conveyed esp. by American Negro performers **2** : NEGRITUDE *herein* **3** : SOUL MUSIC *herein*
soul *adj* [*soul*, n. (herein)] **1** : of, relating to, or characteristic of American Negroes or their culture ⟨vocals are delivered in a raspy, ~ style —Ellen Sander⟩ **2** : designed for or controlled by Negroes ⟨~ radio stations⟩
soul brother *n* : a male Negro — used by other Negroes
soul food *n* : food traditionally eaten esp. by southern American Negroes that usu. includes chitterlings, hogs' jowls, ham hocks, collard greens, catfish, and cornbread
soul music *n* : music that originated with American Negro gospel singing, is closely related to rhythm and blues, and is characterized by intensity of feeling and earthiness
sound pollution *n* : NOISE POLLUTION *herein*
soup* *n* : the fast-moving white water that moves shoreward after a wave breaks
spaceborne \ˈˌ⁼ˌ⁼\ *adj* [*space* + *¹borne*] **1** : carried in space external to the atmosphere as a result of velocity ⟨~ satellites⟩ **2** : involving the use of spaceborne equipment
space sickness *n* : unpleasant physiological effects occurring under the conditions of sustained spaceflight
space walk *n* : a moving about in open space outside a spacecraft by an astronaut protected by a space suit — **space walk** *vi* — **spacewalker** \ˈˌ⁼ˌ⁼\ *n* — **spacewalking** \ˈˌ⁼ˌ⁼\ *n*
spacewoman \ˈˌ⁼ˌ⁼\ *n* [*space* + *woman*] : a female astronaut
spatter glass *n* : END-OF-DAY GLASS *herein*
speakerphone \ˈˌ⁼ˌ⁼\ *n* [*speaker* + *phone*] : a combination microphone and loudspeaker device for two-way communication by telephone lines
spear·ing \'spiriŋ\ *n* -s [fr. gerund of *³spear*] : a check in hockey in which one player jabs another in the body with the end of a hockey stick
special drawing rights *n pl* : SDRs *herein*
special situation *n* : an exceptional corporate condition or prospect that offers unusual chances for capital gains
speed* *n* : a form or derivative of amphetamine used esp. as a stimulant for the central nervous system
speed-reading \ˈˌ⁼ˌ⁼\ *n* : a method of reading rapidly by skimming — **speed-read** \ˈˌ⁼ˌ⁼\ *vt*
speed shop *n* : a shop that sells automotive equipment esp. to hot rodders and sometimes installs such equipment
spider hole *n* : a camouflaged foxhole
spinner* *n* : a surfing feat in which a standing surfer makes a complete turnaround while the board continues to move straight ahead
spin-off* *n* **1** : the distribution by a business to its stockholders of particular assets and esp. of stock of another company **2** : a usu. useful by-product ⟨new household products that are *spin-offs* from missile research⟩; *also* : a number of such by-products ⟨the *spin-off* from defense research⟩
spinout \ˈˌ⁼ˌ⁼\ *n* -s [*²spin* + *out*] : a rotational skid by an automobile that usu. causes it to leave the roadway
spin resonance *n* : ELECTRON SPIN RESONANCE *herein*
spi·rono·lactone \ˌspīˈränəˌlaktōn\ *n* [*spirono-* (of unknown origin) + *lactone*] : an aldosterone antagonist that promotes diuresis and sodium excretion and is sometimes used to relieve ascites
splashdown \ˈˌ⁼ˌ⁼\ *n* -s [fr. the phrase *splash down*] : the landing of a manned spacecraft in water — **splash down** *vi*
split end *n* : a football end who on offense lines up on the weak side usu. several yards from the tackle
spoiler* *n* : an air deflector on the front or on the rear deck of an automobile and esp. a racer to reduce the tendency to lift off the road at high speeds
spongeware \ˈˌ⁼ˌ⁼\ *n* [*¹sponge* + *⁴ware*] : a typically 19th century earthenware with background color spattered or dabbed (as with a sponge) and usu. a freehand central design
spoon·er \'spünə(r)\ *n* -s [*¹spoon* + *²-er*] : a container that is designed to hold extra teaspoons and forms part of a 19th century table service
spread end *n* : SPLIT END *herein*
sprint car *n* : a rugged racing automobile that is midway in size between midget racers and ordinary racers, has about the same horsepower as the larger racers, and is usu. raced on a dirt track
square out *n* : a pass pattern in football in which a receiver runs downfield a short distance and then breaks at a 90 degree angle for the sidelines
SST \ˌe(ˌ)se'tē\ *abbr or n* -s supersonic transport *herein*
stacked heel *n* [*stacked* (past part. of *²stack*) + *¹heel*] : a heel made of layers of leather and used on women's shoes
staging* *n* : the disengaging and discarding of a burned-out rocket unit from a space vehicle during flight
standing crop* *n* : the total amount or number of living beings or of one kind of living being in a particular situation at any given time ⟨the *standing crop* of fish in a farm pond⟩
standoff* *n* : a standoff insulator
stannous fluoride *n* : a white compound SnF_2 of tin and fluorine used in toothpaste to combat tooth decay
sta·pe·dec·to·my \ˌstāpəˈdektəmē, -pē'd-\ *n* -ES [ISV *staped-* (fr. NL *staped-, stapes* stapes) + *-ectomy*] : surgical removal and prosthetic replacement of the stapes to relieve deafness
stark·ers \'stärkərz\ *adj* [*¹stark* + *-ers* (Oxford University slang suffix)] *chiefly Brit* : completely unclothed : NUDE
station* *n* : a pocket with its automatic signature-feeding equipment in a gathering machine
steady state theory *n* : a theory in astronomy: the universe has always existed and has always been expanding with hydrogen being created continuously and spontaneously — compare BIG BANG THEORY *herein*
stel·lar·ator \'stelaˌrād·ə(r)\ *n* -s [*stellar* + *-ator* (as in *generator*); fr. its use of temperatures approaching those occurring in some stars] : a device for producing controlled nuclear fusion that involves the confinement of gaseous plasma in a usu. figure-eight-shaped tube by means of an externally applied magnetic field and the heating of the plasma
stellar wind *n* : hot gases ejected at varying rates from a star's surface into interstellar space
stere·ol·o·gy \ˌsterē'äləjē, stir-\ *n* -ES [ISV *stere-* + *-logy*] : a branch of science concerned with the development and testing of inferences about the three-dimensional properties and reactions of objects or matter ordinarily observed or observable from a two-dimensional point of view
stereotape \ˈˌ⁼ˌ⁼\ *n* [*²stereo* + *tape*] : a stereophonic magnetic tape
stereo·tax·ic \ˌsterēəˈtaksik, ˌstir-\ *adj* [NL *stereotaxis* stereotaxic technique (fr. *stere-* + Gk *taxis* arrangement) + E *-ic* — more at TAXIS] : of, relating to, involving, or being a technique or apparatus used in neurological research or surgery for directing the tip of a delicate instrument (as a needle or an electrode) in three planes in attempting to reach a predetermined locus in the nervous system
ste·ven·graph \'stēvənˌgraf\ *or* **ste·vens·graph** \-nz,g-\ *n* -s *usu cap* [Thomas *Stevens*, 19th cent. Am. weaver + E *-graph*] : a woven silk picture
stick shift *n* : a manually operated sticklike gearshift mounted on the steering column or floor of an automobile
stiletto heel *n* : a high thin heel that is narrower than a spike heel and is used on women's shoes
still bank \ˈˌ⁼ˌ⁼\ *n* [*still* + *⁴bank*] : a bank (as in the shape of an animal or a ship) with a slot for inserting coins
stish·ov·ite \'stishəˌvīt\ *n* -s [S.M. *Stishov*, 20th cent. Russ. mineralogist + E *-ite*] : a dense silicon dioxide formed under great pressure
STOL *abbr* short takeoff and landing
stop* *vb* — **stop a stock** *of a stock-market specialist* : to agree to a later sale or purchase of a specified number of shares at the price current when the agreement is made
stop out* *vt* : to sell securities of (a shareowner) on a stop order
STP \ˌe(ˌ)stē'pē\ *n* -s [fr. *STP*, trademark for a motor fuel additive to which it is likened in its effects] : a psychedelic drug chemically related to mescaline and amphetamine — called also *DOM*
straight* *adj* : HETEROSEXUAL
strangeness* *n* : a quantum characteristic of a strongly interacting elementary particle indicated by a number that is equal to its hypercharge minus its baryon number
strange particle *n* : a short-lived unstable elementary particle (as a kaon) that is created in high-energy particle collisions and has a strangeness quantum number different from zero
strat·i·fi·ca·tion·al grammar \ˌstrad·əfəˈkāshnəl-, -shənˈl-\ *n* [*stratification* + *-al* + *grammar*] : a grammar based on the theory that language consists of a series of hierarchically related strata linked together by representational rules
strawberry jar *n* : a usu. large upright ceramic jar with pocketed openings in the sides into which small plants can be inserted for growing in soil contained in the jar
streak·ing \'strēkiŋ\ *n* -s [fr. gerund of *²streak*] : the lightening (as by chemicals) of a few long strands of hair to produce a streaked effect — compare FROSTING *herein*
stream* *n, Brit* : TRACK 3c
streaming* *n, Brit* : TRACKING *herein*
strep·to·ni·grin \ˌstreptōˈnīgrən\ *n* -s [NL *strepto-* (fr. *Streptomyces flocculus*, actinomycete from which it is produced) + L *nigr-, niger* black + E *-in*; prob. fr. its dark color] : a toxic antibiotic from an actinomycete (*Streptomyces flocculus*) that interferes with DNA metabolism
strike* *n* : a perfectly thrown ball ⟨fired a ~ to first base⟩
striking price *n* : a price agreed upon as that at which an option contract (as a put or call) can be exercised
strip city *n* : an urban area forming a long narrow strip
strong interaction *n* : a fundamental interaction experienced by elementary particles (as hadrons) that is more powerful than any other known force and is responsible for the binding together of neutrons and protons in the atomic nucleus and for processes of particle creation in high-energy collisions
structural gene *n* : a gene determining the amino acid sequence of a protein through a specific messenger RNA
strung out *adj* **1** : addicted to a drug **2** : physically debilitated from or as if from long-term drug addiction
student union *n* : a building on a college campus that is devoted to student activities and that usu. contains lounges, auditoriums, offices, and game rooms
sub·cellular \ˌsəb+\ *adj* [*sub-* + *cellular*] : of less than

cellular scope or level of organization ⟨~ particles⟩
sub·compact \ˌsəb+\ *n* [*sub-* + *³compact*] : an automobile smaller than one commonly designated as a compact
sub·or·di·na·tor \səˈbȯrdᵊnˌād·ər\ *n* -s [*³subordinate* + *¹-or*] : one that subordinates; *esp* : a subordinating conjunction
sub·program \ˈsəbˌ+\ *n* [*sub-* + *program* (herein)] : a semi-independent portion of a program (as for a computer)
sub·satellite \"+\ *n* [*sub-* + *satellite*] **1** : a political entity within the sphere of influence of another entity that is itself a satellite of a stronger power **2** : an object carried into orbit in and subsequently released from an artificial satellite
sub·shell \ˈsəb+,\ *n* [*sub-* + *shell*] : any of the one or more orbitals making up an electron shell of an atom
sub·to·pia \ˌsəbˈtōpēə\ *n* -s [*sub*urbs + *-topia* (fr. Gk *topos* place) — more at TOPIC] *chiefly Brit* : the suburbs of a city — **sub·to·pi·an** \-ēən\ *adj, chiefly Brit*
succorance* *n* : a dependence on or an active seeking for nurturant care — **suc·cor·ant** \ˈsəkərənt\ *adj*
suicide pact *n* : an agreement between two individuals wherein they commit suicide together or one kills the other and then commits suicide
su·i·cid·ol·o·gy \ˌsüəˌsīˈdäləjē\ *n* -ES [*suicide* + *-o-* + *-logy*] : the study of suicide and suicide prevention
sul·fo·nyl·urea \ˌsəlfəˌnil+\ *n* -s [NL, fr. ISV *sulfonyl* + NL *urea*] : any of several hypoglycemic compounds related to the sulfonamides and used in the oral treatment of diabetes
sulphide* *n* : a ceramic form and esp. a portrait bas-relief enclosed in clear glass where it glitters like silver
sunroof \ˈsᵊˌfˈ\ *n* [so called fr. its letting in the sunlight] : an automobile roof having a panel that is openable
sunseeker \ˈsᵊˌsᵉᵊ\ *n* [*sun* + *seeker*] **1** : a person who travels to an area of warmth and sun esp. in winter **2** : a photoelectric device on a spacecraft or artificial satellite that maintains a constant fix on the sun and forms a part of the navigational system of the vehicle
su·per·alloy \ˈsüpərˌ+\ *n* [*super-* + *alloy*] : any of various high-strength often complex alloys having resistance to high temperature
su·per·continent \"+\ *n* [*super-* + *continent*] : a hypothetical former large continent from which other continents broke off and drifted away — called also *protocontinent*
su·per·jet \ˈsüpə(r)+\ *n* [*super*sonic + *jet*] : a supersonic jet airplane
su·per·molecule \ˈsüpə(r)+\ *n* [*super-* + *molecule*] : MACROMOLECULE — **su·per·molecular** \"+\ *adj*
su·per·plasticity \"+\ *n* [*super-* + *plasticity*] : the quality or state of having enhanced ductility as a result of microstructural change brought about by heat and mechanical treatment — used of an alloy — **su·per·plastic** \"+\ *adj or n*
supersonic transport *n* : a supersonic transport airplane
support hose *n* : STOCKING 2a
support level *or* **support area** *n* : a price level on a declining market at which a security resists further decline due to increased attractiveness to traders and investors
suppressant *n* -s [*suppressant*, adj.] : an agent (as a drug) that tends to suppress rather than eliminate something undesirable
su·pra·cellular \ˈsüprə+\ *adj* [*supra-* + *cellular*] : of greater than cellular scope or level of organization
su·pre·mo \səˈprē(ˌ)mō, süˈp-\ *n -s often cap* [Sp & It, fr. *supremo*, adj., supreme, fr. L *supremus*] *Brit* : one who is highest in rank or authority
surf·able \ˈsərfəbəl\ *adj* [*²surf* + *-able*] : suitable for surfing
surface-effect ship *n* : a ground-effect machine that operates over water
surface structure *n* : a formal representation of the phonetic form of a sentence; *also* : the structure which such a representation describes
surface-to-air missile *n* : a usu. guided missile launched from the ground against a target in the air
surfer's knot *n* : a knobby lump just below a surfer's knee or on the upper surface of his foot caused by friction and pressure between surfboard and skin
swing* *vi* : to be lively and up-to-date
swing* *n* : a play in football in which a backfield receiver runs to the outside to take a short pass — called also *swing pass*
swing-by \ˈsᵊˌbī\ *n* -s : an interplanetary mission in which a space vehicle utilizes the gravitational field of a planet near which it passes for changing course
swing-wing \ˈsᵊˌsᵊ\ *adj* : being or having a variable airplane wing whose outer portion for high speeds folds back along the fuselage and thereby gives the plane an arrowlike planform — **swing wing** *n*
switched-on \(ˈ)swichˈtȯn, -tən\ *adj* [fr. past part. of the verb phrase *switch on*] : attuned to what is new and exciting
synchrotron radiation *n* [so called from its having been first observed in a synchrotron] : radiation emitted by high-energy charged relativistic particles (as electrons) when they are accelerated by a magnetic field (as in the Crab nebula)
syn·ec·tics \sᵊnekˈtiks\ *n pl but usu sing in constr* [perh. fr. Gk *synektik*tein to bring forth together (fr. *syn-* + *ektiktein* to bring forth, fr. *ex-* out + *tiktein* to beget) + E *-s* (as in *dialectics*) — more at EX-, THANE] : a theory or system of problem-stating and problem-solving based on creative thinking that involves free use of metaphor and analogy in informal interchange within a carefully selected small group of individuals of diverse personality and areas of specialization — **syn·ec·tic** \-tik\ *adj* — **syn·ec·ti·cal·ly** \-tək(ə)lē\ *adv*
synergism* *n* : interaction of discrete agencies (as of industrial firms or physical equipment) in combination such that the total effect is greater than the sum of the individual effects
syn·ge·ne·ic \ˌsinjəˈnēik\ *adj* [Gk *syngeneia* kinship (fr. *syn-* + *genos* kind, kin) + E *-ic* — more at KIN] **1** : genically identical : ISOGENIC **2** : sufficiently alike genetically to be antigenically similar — compare ALLOGENEIC *herein*
syntactic foam *n* [*syntactic* fr. Gk *syntaktikos* putting together — more at SYNTACTIC] : a plastic in which preformed cells (as tiny hollow glass spheres) have been incorporated, which can withstand great pressures (as at ocean depths), and which floats
synthetic division *n* : a simplified form of the division of a polynomial in x by $x - a$ using only the coefficients of the polynomial and the number a
systems analysis *n* : the act, process, or profession of studying an activity (as a procedure, a business, or a physiological function) typically by mathematical means in order to determine its desired or essential end and how this may most efficiently be attained — **systems analyst** *n*
t* *abbr, cap* tera- *herein*
ta·bla \ˈtəblə, ˈtab-\ *n* -s [Hindi *tabla*, fr. Ar *tabla*] : a pair of small different-sized hand drums used esp. in Hindu music
ta·can \ˈtaˌkan\ *n* -s [*tactical air navigation*] : a system of navigation employing ultra-high frequency signals to determine the distance and bearing of an aircraft from a transmitting station
tach·ism \ˈtaˌshizəm\ *n* -s *often cap* [F *tachisme*, fr. *tache* stain, spot, blob + *-isme* -ism — more at TACHE] : ACTION PAINTING *herein* — **tach·ist** \ˈtashəst\ *adj or n, often cap*
tachy·on \ˈtakēˌän\ *n* -s [*tachy-* + *²-on*] : a hypothetical subatomic particle that travels faster than light and behaves in a manner opposite to that of ordinary particles so that with an increase in velocity its energy decreases
tag·me·mic grammar \(ˌ)tagˌmēmik-\ *n* [*tagmeme* + *-ic*] : a grammar that describes language in terms of the relationship between grammatical function and the class of items which can perform that function
take* *vb* — **take a position** *of a security dealer* : to hold in his own account stock bought in the course of trading
take-out \ˈsᵉˌ\ *adj* [*take out*, v.] : designed for the sale of food that is not to be consumed on the premises ⟨*take-out* counter⟩
ta·la \ˈtälə\ *n* -s [Skt *tāla* hand-clapping, musical beat, alter. of *tāḍa* beating, fr. *tāḍāyati* he beats] : one of the ancient traditional metrical patterns of Hindu music
tape deck *n* **1 a** : a mechanism that moves a tape past a magnetic head (as of a tape recorder) — called also *tape transport* **b** : a device that contains such a mechanism and that for the playback of recorded magnetic tapes usu. has to be connected to a separate audio system **2** : TAPE PLAYER *herein*
tape player *n* : a self-contained device for the playback of recorded magnetic tapes
target language *n* **1** : a foreign language that is the subject of study **2** : a language into which a translation (as by machine) is made
tar pit *n* : an area in which natural bitumens collect and are exposed at the earth's surface and which forms a trap into which animals sink and in which their bones are preserved
taxi squad *n* [so called fr. the practice of a former owner of a professional team who employed such surplus players as drivers for a taxi fleet which he also owned] : a group of football players under contract who practice with a team but are ineligible to participate in official games
tax selling *n* : concerted selling of securities late in the year to establish gains and losses for income-tax purposes
tax shelter *n* : a factor (as special depreciation allowances) that reduces the taxes on current earnings either to a corporation or its stockholders — **tax-sheltered** \ˈˌsᵉᵊ\ *adj*
tea ceremony *n* : CHANOYU
teach-in \ˈᵊˌ\ *n* -s [*teach* + *-in* (herein)] : an extended meeting usu. held on a college campus for lectures, debates, and discussions on critical topics (as U. S. foreign policy)
teaching machine *n* : any of various mechanical devices for presenting a program of instructional material
tech·ne·tron·ic \ˌteknəˈtränik\ *adj* [*technological* + *electronic*] : of or being a society that is shaped by the impact of technology and electronics and esp. by the impact of computers and communications on its structure, culture, psychology, and economics
tech·no·structure \ˌteknō+\ *n* [*techno-* + *structure*] : a large-scale corporation or system of corporate enterprise; *also* : a group of professionals who control a technostructure
teeny \ˈtēnē\ *n, pl* **teen·ies** [*teen* + *-y*] : TEEN-AGER
teenybopper \ˈᵉᵉˌᵉᵊ\ *n* -s [*teeny* (herein) + *bopper*] **1** : a teen-aged girl **2** : a teen-ager who rejects middle-class mores, dresses in the latest styles, is addicted to rock 'n' roll music, and is keenly aware of and interested in the use of drugs
TEFL \ˈtefəl\ *abbr* teaching English as a foreign language
tele·facsimile \ˈteləˌ+\ *n* [*tele-* + *facsimile*] : a system for the transmission and reproduction of fixed graphic matter (as printing) involving the use of signals transmitted (as between libraries) over telephone wires
tele·lecture \ˈtelə+,\ *n* [*tele-* + *lecture*] **1** : a loudspeaker connected to a telephone line for amplifying voice communication **2** : a lecture delivered to an audience by telelecture
tel·ex \ˈteˌleks\ *n* -ES [*tele*printer + *ex*change] : a communication service involving teletypewriters connected by wire through automatic exchanges — **telex** VT -ED/-ING/-ES
ten·der·om·e·ter \ˌtendəˈrämədəˌ(r)\ *n* -s [*¹tender* + *-o-* + *-meter*] : a device for determining the maturity and tenderness of samples of fruits and vegetables
ten·sio·met·ric \ˌten(t)sēəˈmetrik\ *adj* [*tension* + *-metric*] : of, relating to, or involving the measurement of tension or tensile strength — **ten·si·om·e·try** \ˌten(t)sēˈämətrē\ *n* -ES
tent-trailer \ˈᵉˌᵉᵊ\ *n* : a 2-wheeled automobile-drawn trailer having a canvas shelter that can be opened up above the body to provide camping facilities
te·pa \ˈtēpə\ *n* -s [*tri-* + *ethylene* + *phosphor-* + *amide*] : a compound related to ethylenimine that is a chemosterilant of insects and an alleviant in some kinds of cancer
tera- \ˈterə\ *comb form* [ISV, fr. Gk *teras* monster — more at TERAT-] : TRILLION ⟨*teraton*⟩
ter·a·to·gen \ˈterətəjən, -ˌjen; təˈrad·əjən\ *n* -s [*terat-* + *-gen*] : a teratogenic agent (as a drug or virus) — **ter·a·to·ge·nic·i·ty** \ˌterətōjəˈnisəd·ē, təˌrad·əjˈ-\ *n* -ES
terminal* *n* : a device (as a teletypewriter) through which a user can communicate with a computer
ter·ran \ˈterən\ *n* -s *usu cap* [*Terra*, the planet Earth (fr. L *terra* earth) + E *-an* — more at TERRACE] : EARTHMAN
TESL \ˈtesəl\ *abbr* teaching English as a second language
tes·la \ˈteslə\ *n* -s [ISV, after Nikola *Tesla* †1943 Am. electrician and inventor] : a unit of magnetic flux density in the mks system equivalent to one weber per square meter
test-drive \ˈᵉˌᵉᵊ\ *vt* : to drive (a motor vehicle) before buying in order to evaluate performance
tet·ra·functional \ˌte·trəˈ+\ *adj* [*tetra-* + *functional*] : of, relating to, or being a compound with four sites in the molecule that are highly reactive (as in polymerization)
tet·ra·hy·dro·cannabinol \ˌte·trəˌhīdrə+\ *n* -s [*tetrahydr-* + *cannabinol*] : a physiologically active liquid from hemp plant resin that is prob. the chief intoxicant in marijuana
tet·ra·pyr·role *also* **tet·ra·pyr·rol** \ˌte·trəˈpi,rōl, -rȯl, -əpəˈr-\ *n* [*tetra-* + *pyrrole*] : a chemical group consisting of four pyrrole rings joined either in a straight chain (as in phycobilins) or in a ring (as in chlorophyll)
tha·lid·o·mide \thəˈlidəˌmīd, -ˌməd\ *n* -s [*phthalimide* + *-o-* + *imide*] : a sedative and hypnotic drug found to cause malformation of infants born to mothers using it during pregnancy
THC *n* [*tetrahydrocannabinol* (herein)] : TETRAHYDROCANNABINOL *herein*
theater of the absurd : theater that seeks to represent the absurdity of man's existence in a meaningless universe by bizarre or fantastic means
therapeutic index *n* : a measure of the relative desirability of a drug for the attaining of a particular medical end that is usu. expressed as the ratio of the largest dose producing no toxic symptoms to the smallest dose routinely producing cures
thermal pollution *n* : the discharge of liquid (as waste water from a factory) into a natural body of water at such a high temperature that harm to the plant and animal life may result
ther·mo·form \ˈthərməˌfȯrm\ *vt* [*therm-* + *²form*] : to give a final shape to (as a plastic) with the aid of heat and usu. pressure — **thermoform** *n*
ther·mo·gravimetry \ˈthərˌ(ˌ)mō+\ *n* [ISV *therm-* + *gravimetry*; prob. orig. formed in F] : the determination (as with a thermobalance) of weight changes in a substance at a high temperature or during a gradual increase in temperature — **ther·mo·gravimetric** \"+\ *adj*
ther·mo·physical \ˈthərmō, -məˌ+\ *adj* [*therm-* + *physical*] : of, relating to, or concerned with the physical properties of materials as affected by elevated temperatures
ther·mo·sphere \ˈthərməˌ+\ *n* [ISV *therm-* + *sphere*] : the part of the earth's atmosphere that begins at about 50 miles above the earth's surface, extends to outer space, and is characterized by steadily increasing temperature with height — **ther·mo·spheric** \ˌᵉᵊ+\ *adj*
thia·ben·da·zole \ˌthīəˈbendəˌzōl\ *n* -s [*thiazole* + *benzimidazole*] : a drug used in the control of parasitic roundworms and in the treatment of fungus infections
thi·a·zide \ˈthīəˌzīd, -ˌzəd\ *n* -s [*thia-* + *diazine* + *dioxide*] : any of several drugs used as oral diuretics esp. in the control of high blood pressure
thing* *n* : a personal choice of activity : SPECIALTY — often used with *do* ⟨letting students do their own ~ —*Newsweek*⟩
think tank *n* : an institute, corporation, or group organized for interdisciplinary research (as in military strategy or technological and social problems) — called also *think factory*
thin-layer chromatography *n* : chromatography in which the absorbent medium is in a thin layer (as of siliceous fibers)
thi·o·rid·a·zine \ˌthīəˈridəˌzēn, -ˌzən\ *n* -s [*thio-* + *piperidine* + *phenothiazine*] : a tranquilizer used in relief of anxiety states and in the treatment of schizophrenia
third market *n* [so called in distinction from the organized exchanges and the market in unlisted securities] : the over-the-counter market in listed securities
third-stream *adj* : of, relating to, or being music that incorporates elements of classical music and jazz
third world *n, often cap T&W* **1** : a group of nations esp. in Africa and Asia that are not aligned with either the Communist or the non-Communist blocs **2** : an aggregate of minority groups within a larger predominant culture
thread* *n* **threads** *pl* : CLOTHES
thrift shop *n* : a shop that sells secondhand articles and esp. clothes and is often run for charitable purposes
throughput* *n* : OUTPUT, PRODUCTION ⟨the ~ of a computer⟩
throwaway \ˈᵉᵊˌᵉ\ *adj* [*throw away*] **1** : that may be thrown away : DISPOSABLE ⟨~ containers⟩ **2** : written or spoken (as in a play) in a low-key or unemphasized manner ⟨~ lines⟩
thrust chamber *n* : ROCKET 4
thrus·tor *or* **thrust·er*** \ˈthrəstə(r)\ *n* -s [*¹thrust* + *¹-or* or *²-er*] : REACTION ENGINE
thrust stage *n* [*thread*, past part. of *¹thrust*] : a stage surrounded on three sides by the audience; *also* : a forestage that is extended into the auditorium to increase the stage area
thy·mi·co·lymphatic \ˌthīməkōˈ+\ *adj* [*²thymic* + *-o-* + *lymphatic*] : of, relating to, or affecting both the thymus and the lymphatic system
thy·ro·calcitonin \ˌthīrō+\ *n* -s [*thyr-* + *calcitonin* (herein)] : a polypeptide hormone from the thyroid gland that tends to lower the level of calcium in the blood plasma
tight end *n* : a football end who on offense lines up on the strong side usu. within two yards of the tackle
time dilation *also* **time dilatation** *n* : a slowing of time on a system moving at a velocity approaching that of light relative to an observer as predicted by the theory of relativity
time reversal *n* : a formal operation in mathematical physics that reverses the order in which a sequence of events occurs
time reversal invariance *n* : a principle in physics: if a given sequence of events is physically possible the same sequence in the opposite order is also possible
time-sharing \ˈᵉˌᵉᵉ\ *n* : simultaneous access to a computer by many users with programs being interspersed and processed so rapidly that answers to individual problems are obtained in seconds — **time-shared** \ˈᵉˌᵉ\ *adj*
ting ware \ˈtingˌᵉ\ *also* **ting yao** \-ˈyau̇\ *n, often cap T* [*Ting* fr. *Ting Chou*, town southwest of Peking, China, where it was originally made; *Ting yao* fr. *Ting* + Chin (Pek) *yao²* pottery] : a Chinese porcelain ware known since Sung times that is typically expertly potted, often decorated with engraved underglaze designs, and characteristically glazed with a milk-white to creamy white or less often an iron-red glaze
tissue* *vt* : to remove (as cleansing cream) with a tissue
to·ken·ism \ˈtōkəˌnizəm\ *n* -s [*token* + *-ism*] : the policy or practice of making only a token effort (as to desegregate)
tom \ˈtäm\ *n, usu cap* : UNCLE TOM
tool *n* -s [*²tool*] : a design (as on the binding of a book) made by tooling
toothpick* *n* : a small often elaborate container for a supply of toothpicks at table
topo·cen·tric \ˌtäpəˈsen·trik, ˌtōp-\ *adj* [*top-* + *-centric*] : relating to, measured from, or as if observed from a particular point on the earth's surface : having or relating to such a point as origin ⟨~ coordinates⟩ — compare GEOCENTRIC *in the Dict*
to·pos \ˈtōˌpäs, ˈtäˌp-\ *n, pl* **to·poi** \-ˌpȯi\ [Gk, place, commonplace, topic — more at TOPIC] : a stock rhetorical theme or topic
torque *vt* -ED/-ING/-S [*²torque*] : to impart torque to : cause to twist (as about an axis) — **torqu·er** \ˈtȯrkər\ *n* -s
total* *vt* : to make a total wreck of (a car) : DEMOLISH
total environment *n* : ENVIRONMENT *herein*
tow-away zone \ˈtōəˌwāˌᵉ\ *n* [fr. the phrase *tow away*] : a no-parking zone from which parked vehicles are towed away
town house* *n* : a single-family house of two or sometimes three stories connected to another house by a common sidewall
track·ing \ˈtrakiŋ\ *n* -s [fr. gerund of *²track*] : the grouping of children in classes or schools on the basis of their abilities and intelligence
track record *n* : a record of accomplishments ⟨a company with an excellent *track record* in public service⟩
trade-off \ˈᵉˌ\ *n* [*trade off*] **1** : a balancing of factors all of which are not attainable at the same time ⟨the education versus experience *trade-off* which governs personnel practices —H.S.White⟩ **2** : a giving up of one thing in return for another : EXCHANGE
train·ee·ship \trāˈnēˌship\ *n* -s [*trainee* + *-ship*] : the position or status of a trainee; *specif* : one involving a program of advanced training and study esp. in a medical science and usu. bearing a stipend and allowances (as for travel)
trans·am·i·nate \tranˈ(t)samə,nāt, traan-, -nˈza-\ *vb* -ED/-ING/-S [back-formation fr. *transamination*] *vi* : to induce or catalyze a transamination ~ *vt* : to induce or catalyze the transamination of
transcription* *n* : construction of a messenger RNA molecule from the information contained in DNA
trans·duce \tranˈ(t)sˈd(y)üs, traan-, -nzˈ-\ *vt* -ED/-ING/-S [L *transducere* to lead across, transfer, fr. *trans-* + *ducere* to lead — more at TOW] **1** : to convert (as energy or a message) into another form **2** : to bring about the transduction of : produce by transduction
transearth \ˈᵉˌᵉ\ *adj* [*trans-* + *earth*] : of or relating to the entry of a spacecraft into a trajectory between a celestial body (as the moon) and the earth and to travel in the direction of the earth ⟨~ injection⟩ ⟨~ burn⟩ ⟨~ coast⟩
transfer RNA \-ˌäˌreˈnā\ *n* -s : a relatively small ribonucleic acid molecule that functions in the transfer of a particular amino acid to the site of protein synthesis
transform* *n* : a linguistic structure (as a sentence) produced by means of a transformation ⟨"the duckling is killed by the farmer" is a ~ of "the farmer kills the duckling"⟩
transformation* *n* **1** : passage of small amounts of free genetically active DNA from one bacterial cell to another resulting in changes in the genetic potential of the recipient cells — compare TRANSDUCTION *in the Dict* **2** : one of an ordered set of rules that specify how to convert the deep structures of a language into surface structures
trans·for·ma·tion·al \ˌtranzfə(r)ˈmāshənᵊl, ˌtraan-, -n(t)sf-\ *adj* [*transformation* + *-al*] : of, relating to, or based on linguistic transformation
transformational grammar *n* : a grammar that generates the deep structures of a language and relates these to the surface structures by means of transformations
trans·for·ma·tion·al·ist \ˌtranzfə(r)māshənᵊlˌist, ˌtraan-, -n(t)sf-, -shnəl-\ *n* -s : an exponent of transformational grammar
transistor* *or* **transistor radio** *n* : a transistorized radio
translation* *n* : construction of a protein molecule from the information contained in messenger RNA
translunar \(ˈ)ᵉˌᵉ\ *adj* [*trans-* + *lunar*] : of or relating to the entry of a spacecraft into a trajectory between a celestial body (as the earth) and the moon and to travel in the direction of the moon ⟨~ injection⟩ ⟨~ burn⟩ ⟨~ coast⟩
transmutation* *n* : the effect of controlled reduction firing on certain chiefly Oriental copper-containing and/or iron-containing ceramic glazes (**transmutation glazes**) that is typically a variegation of colors (as purple, blue, and red) and a thick often bubbly consistency
transpose* *n* : a matrix that differs from another mathematical matrix by having rows and columns interchanged
transsexual \(ˈ)ᵉˌᵉ(ᵉ)ᵉ\ *n* [*trans-* + *sexual*] : a person physically of one sex who desires to belong to the opposite sex — **transsexual** *adj* — **trans·sex·u·al·ism** *n*
trans·thoracic \ˌᵉᵉˌᵉᵉ\ *adj* [*trans-* + *thoracic*] : done or made by way of the thoracic cavity — **trans·tho·rac·i·cal·ly** \-ˌtrəsȯkˈ(ə)lē\ *adv*
travel trailer *n* : a trailer drawn esp. by a passenger automobile and equipped for use (as while traveling) as a dwelling
trendy \ˈtrendē\ *adj* [*²trend* + *-y*] *chiefly Brit* : very fashionable : UP-TO-DATE ⟨he's a ~ dresser —*Sunday Mirror*⟩
tri·am·cin·o·lone \ˌtrīamˈsinᵊlˌōn\ *n* -s [*tri-* + *-amcin-* (of unknown origin) + *prednisolone*] : a corticoid drug used esp. in treating psoriasis and allergic skin and respiratory disorders
tri·functional \(ˈ)trīˈ+\ *adj* [*tri-* + *functional*] : of, relating to, or being a compound with three sites in the molecule that are highly reactive (as in polymerization)
tri·jet \ˈtrīˌ+\ *adj* [*tri-* + *jet*] : powered with three jet engines ⟨ a ~ airplane⟩ — **trijet** \ᵉˌᵉ\ *n*
tri·ma·ran \ˈtrīməˌran\ *n* -s [*tri-* + *-maran* (in *catamaran*)] : a fast pleasure sailboat with three hulls side by side
trip* *n* : an intense visionary experience undergone by a person who has taken a psychedelic drug (as LSD)
trip *vi* [*trip*, n. (herein)] : to get high on a psychedelic drug : turn on — often used with *out* — **trip·per** *n*
triplet* *n* **1** : a group of three elementary particles (as positive, negative, and neutral pions) with different charge states but otherwise similar properties **2** *or* **triplet state** : any state of an elementary particle having one quantum unit of spin
trog·lo·bite \ˈträgləˌbīt\ *n* -s [by alter. (influenced by *troglodyte*)] : TROGLOBIONT — **trog·lo·bit·ic** \ˌträgləˈbid·ik\ *adj*
troika* *n* **1** : an administrative or ruling body of three ⟨replaced by a ~ of three coequal secretaries-general —*Newsweek*⟩ **2** : a group of three ⟨astrology, yoga, and poetry are the ~ of manuscripts that most interest him —A.J.Liebling⟩
tropo·collagen \ˈträpə, -rōpə+\ *n* [*¹trop-* + *collagen*] : a

soluble precursor of collagen whose elongated molecules form the elementary building unit of collagen fibers

trust fund* *n* : a governmental fund consisting of moneys accepted for a specified purpose (as civil service retirement) that is administered as a trust separately from other funds and is expended only in furthering the specified purpose

truth set *n* : a mathematical or logical set containing all the elements that may be substituted in a given statement of relationships without altering the truth of the statement

t-time \ˈtē,ˌ\ *n, usu cap 1st T* [prob. fr. ^{2}t (abbr. for *time*)] : the time of initial firing of a rocket vehicle or missile

tube* *n* **1** : TELEVISION TUBE; *broadly* : TELEVISION **2** : CURL *herein*

tu·mor·i·gen·ic \ˌt(y)ümərəˈjenik\ *adj* [*tumor* + *-i-* + *-genic*] : producing or leading to produce tumors; *also* : CARCINOGENIC — **tu·mor·i·genesis** \ˌ-ˈjenəsəs\ *n* — **tu·mor·i·ge·nic·i·ty** \ˌ-ˌjenəˈnisəd·ē\ *n*

tunnel* *n* : CURL *herein*

tunnel diode *n* : a semiconductor device that has two stable states when operated in conjunction with suitable circuit elements and a source of voltage, is capable of extremely rapid transformations between the two by means of the tunnel effect of electrons, and is used for amplifying, switching, and computer information storage and as an oscillator

tur·bo·cop·ter \ˈtərbōˌkäptər, -baˌk-\ *n* -s [*turbo-* + *helicopter*] : a helicopter in which motive power for the rotor is provided by one or more gas turbine engines

tur·bo·electric \ˌtərbō+\ *adj* [*turbo-* + *electric*] : involving or depending as a power source on electricity produced by turbine generators ⟨ships with ~ drive⟩

tur·bo·fan \ˈtərbō+,\ *n* [*turbo-* + *fan*] **1** : a fan that is directly connected to and driven by a turbine **2** : a jet engine having a turbofan

tur·bo·pump \"+,\ *n* [*turbo-* + *pump*] : a pump that is driven by a turbine

tur·bo·shaft \"+,\ *n* -s [*turbo-* + ^{1}*shaft*] : a gas turbine engine that is similar in operation to a turboprop engine but that instead of being used to power a propeller is used through a transmission system for powering other devices

tu·ring machine \ˈt(y)ůriŋ-\ *n, usu cap T* [after A. M. *Turing* †1954 Eng. mathematician] : a hypothetical computing machine that is not limited in use by a fixed maximum amount of information storage and is not subject to malfunctioning

turnaround* *n* : the readying of a pad and the installation of the booster for the next spacecraft launching

turn off* *vi* : to lose interest : WITHDRAW ⟨the kids *turn off* or drift into another world —Edwin Sorensen⟩ ~ *vt* : to cause to turn off ⟨dropouts who are *turned off* by . . . political phoniness —Hendrik Hertzberg⟩

turn on* *vt* **1** : to cause to undergo an intense visionary experience esp. by taking a drug (as LSD or marijuana) **2** : to excite pleasurably : STIMULATE ⟨the ballet . . . was *turning* the audience *on* like magic —Clive Barnes⟩ ~ *vi* **1** : to undergo an intense visionary experience esp. as a result of taking a drug; *broadly* : to get high ⟨students have always *turned on* — it used to be on alcohol —Harvey Wasserman⟩ **2** : to become pleasurably excited ⟨*turns on* instead with classical music or jazz —Julie M. Heldman⟩ — **turn-on** \ˈ=,=\ *n* -s

twin double *n* : a system of betting (as on horse races) in which the bettor must select the winners of four consecutive races in order to win

ty·lo·sin \ˈtīlōsən\ *n* -s [origin unknown] : an antibacterial antibiotic from an actinomycete (*Streptomyces fradiae*)

u \ˈyü\ *adj, cap* [*upper class*] : characteristic of the upper classes

ubi·qui·none \yüˈbikwəˌnōn; ˌyübəˈkwəˈn-, -ˈkwiˌn-\ *n* [blend of L *ubique* everywhere and E *quinone;* fr. its occurrence in nature — more at UBIQUITY] : COENZYME Q *herein*

ufol·o·gy \yüˈfäləjē\ *n* -ES [*UFO* + *-logy*] : the study of unidentified flying objects — **ufol·o·gist** \-jəst\ *n* -s

ul·tra·high \ˌəltrəˈhī+\ *adj* [*ultra-* + *high*] : very high : exceedingly high ⟨~ vacuum⟩ ⟨at ~ temperatures⟩

ul·tra·mi·cro·fiche \ˌəltrəˌmīkrōˌfēsh\ *n* [*ultramicro-* + *-fiche* (as in *microfiche*)] : a photographic reproduction of printed matter in greatly reduced (as 100 to one) form

ul·tra·mi·cro·tome \-raˌtōm\ *n* [*ultramicro-* + *-tome*] : a microtome for cutting extremely thin sections for electron microscopy — **ul·tra·microtomy** \" +\ *n*

ul·tra·miniature \ˌəltrə+\ *adj* [*ultra-* + *miniature*] : SUBMINIATURE — **ul·tra·miniaturization** \"+\ *n*

ul·tra·pure \"+\ *adj* [*ultra-* + *pure*] : of the utmost purity : wholly free from foreign or contaminating matter

umbilical *n* -s : UMBILICAL CORD 2

uncle tom *vi* **uncle tommed; uncle tom·ming** *usu cap U&T* : to behave like an Uncle Tom

uncle tomism \ˌ=ˈtüˌmizəm\ *n, usu cap U&T* [*Uncle Tom* + *-ism*] : behavior characteristic of an Uncle Tom — **uncle tom·ish** \-ˈimish\ *adj, usu cap U&T*

underachieve \ˌəndərəˈchēv\ *vi* [*under-* + *achieve*] : to perform below an expected level of proficiency — **underachievement** \ˌ=ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* — **un·der·achiev·er** \-əˈchēvər\ *n*

underclass \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* [prob. trans. of Sw *underklass*] : the lowest stratum of society usu. composed of disadvantaged minority groups

undercoating* *n* : a waterproof coating applied to the undersurface of a vehicle

underground* *adj* : existing, produced, or published outside the establishment esp. by the avant-garde ⟨~ movies⟩; *also* : of or relating to the avant-garde underground

underground* *n* : a usu. avant-garde group or movement that functions outside the establishment

un·der·whelm \ˌəndə(r)ˈhwelm *also* -ˈw-\ *vt* [^{1}*under* + *-whelm* (as in *overwhelm*)] : to fail to impress or stimulate

undock* *vt* [^{2}*un-* + *dock*] : UNCOUPLE ⟨~ the lunar module from the command module⟩

un·flap·pa·ble \ˌənˈflapəbəl\ *adj* [^{1}*un-* + ^{1}*flap* + *-able*] : marked by assurance and self-control ⟨the most ~ of politicians — Anthony Lewis⟩ — **un·flap·pa·bil·i·ty** \-ˌflapəˈbilədē\ *n* — **un·flap·pa·bly** \-ˈflapəblē\ *adv*

union* *n* **1** : a mathematical set that is formed by combining two other sets and that contains all their separate and shared elements **2** : the mathematical or logical operation of converting separate sets to a union

^{1}uni·sex \ˈyünəˌseks\ *n* [*uni-* + *sex*] : the state or condition of not being distinguishable (as by hair or clothing) as to sex

^{2}unisex *adj* : AMBISEXTROUS *herein*

uni·tar·i·ty \ˌyünəˈtarəd·ē, -ter-\ *n* -ES [*unitary* + *-ty*] : the requirement in quantum mechanics that the S matrix be a unitary transformation between initial and final states of motion

unitary matrix *n* : a matrix whose inverse is equal to the complex conjugate of its transpose

unitary transformation *n* : a linear transformation of a vector space that leaves scalar products unchanged

uni·term \ˈyünəˌtərm\ *n* [*uni-* + *term*] : a single term used as a descriptor in document indexing

unit train *n* : a railway train that transports a single commodity

un·person \ˌənə+\ *n* [^{1}*un-* + *person*] : an individual who usu. for political or ideological reasons is removed completely from recognition, consideration, or memory ⟨became an ~ when he was removed from the Lenin Mausoleum —Henry Tanner⟩

up·date \ˈəpˌdāt\ *n* -s [*update*, v.] **1** : the act of updating : an instance of updating **2** : current information for updating ⟨navigational ~ for a spacecraft computer⟩

upmanship *n* [by shortening] : ONE-UPMANSHIP

upper* *n* : a stimulant drug; *esp* : AMPHETAMINE

uptight \ˈ=ˌ=\ *adj* [^{2}*up* + ^{3}*tight*] **1** : being in financial difficulties : BROKE ⟨surtax was another blow to an industry already ~ —*Chem. & Engineering News*⟩ **2 a** : showing signs of tension or uneasiness : APPREHENSIVE ⟨I was a little ~ about it at first —Phyllis Craig⟩ **b** : ANGRY, INDIGNANT ⟨I've been doing that voice in Negro theaters for years. Nobody ever got ~ —Flip Wilson⟩ **3** : rigidly conventional ⟨~ and antiseptic white community —J.M.Culkin⟩ — **up·tight·ness** *n*

ura·nia \yəˈrānēə, yüˈr-, -nyə\ *n* -s [NL, fr. *uranium* + *-a*] : URANIUM OXIDE a

uranium dioxide *n* : URANIUM OXIDE a

ur·ban·ol·o·gist \ˌ=bəˈnäləjəst\ *n* [*urban* + *-o-* + *-logist*] : one who specializes in the problems of cities — **ur·ban·ology** \-jē\ *n*

urban renewal *n* : a construction program to replace or restore substandard buildings in an urban area

urban sprawl *n* : the spreading of urban developments (as houses and shopping centers) on undeveloped land near a city

ureo·tel·ic \ˌyəˌrēəˈtelik, ˌyůr-\ *adj* [*ure-* + ^{2}*tel-* + *-ic;* fr. the fact that urea is the end product] : excreting nitrogen mostly in the form of urea ⟨mammals are ~ animals⟩

uri·co·tel·ic \ˌyůrəkōˈtelik\ *adj* [*uric-* + ^{2}*tel-* + *ic;* fr. the fact that uric acid is the end product] : excreting nitrogen mostly in the form of uric acid ⟨bird are ~ animals⟩

uro·kinase \ˌyůrə+\ *n* [^{1}*ur-* + *kinase*] : an enzyme similar to streptokinase found in human urine and used to dissolve blood clots (as in the heart)

ur·ti·car·io·gen·ic \ˌ=ˌ=ˌ=ˌjenik\ *adj* [*urticaria* + *-o-* + *-genic*] : being an agent or substance that induces or predisposes to urticarial lesions (as wheals on the skin)

vac·ci·nee \ˌvaksəˈnē\ *n* -s [^{1}*vaccinate* + *-ee*] : VACCINATE

van·co·my·cin \ˌvaŋkəˈmīsˀn\ *n* -s [*vanco-* (of unknown origin) + *-mycin*] : an antibiotic from an actinomycete (*Streptomyces orientalis*) that is effective against spirochetes

vanishing *n* -s : FADING *herein*

vanity plate *n* : an automobile registration plate bearing letters, numbers, or a combination of these chosen by the owner

va·rac·tor \vəˈraktər, (ˈ)va(ə)|(ə)r-, (ˈ)ve|\ *n* -s [*varying* + *reactor*] : a semiconductor device whose capacitance varies with the applied voltage

variable annuity *n* : an annuity contract which is backed primarily by a fund of common stocks and the payments on which fluctuate with the state of the economy

vaso·active \ˌvā(ˌ)zō, ˈvā(ˌ)sō, ˈva(ˌ)sō, ˈva(ˌ)zō+\ *adj* [*vaso-* + *active*] : affecting the blood vessels esp. in respect to the degree of their relaxation or contraction

VC* *abbr* Vietcong

vector* *n* : a mathematical quantity with two or more numerical components obeying rules of transformation within a space of two or more dimensions

veg·an·ism \ˈvejəˌnizəm\ *n* -s [by contraction fr. *vegetarianism*] : extreme vegetarianism

ver·nal·in \ˈvərnələn\ *n* -s [*vernal*ization + *-in*] : a plant hormone found after vernalization and held to function in flower initiation

vernier* *also* **vernier engine** *n* : any of two or more small supplementary rocket engines or gas nozzles mounted on a missile or rocket vehicle and designed to make fine adjustments in the speed or course or to control the attitude

vex·il·lol·o·gy \ˌveksəˈläləjē\ *n* -ES [L *vexillum* flag + E *-o-* + *-logy* — more at VEXILLUM] : the study of flags — **vex·il·log·i·cal** \ˌveksələˈläjəkəl, (ˌ)vekˌsiləˈlä-\ *adj* — **vex·il·loi·o·gist** \ˌveksəˈlälōjəst\ *n* -s

vi·bron·ic \(ˈ)vīˈbränik\ *adj* [*vibration* + *electronic*] : electronic-vibrational — used of the state of a molecule and of spectra of molecules

vid·eo·phone \ˈvidēəˌfōn\ *n* [*video* + ^{1}*phone*] : a telephone equipped for transmission of video as well as audio signals so that users can see each other

^{1}vid·eo·tape \ˌ=ēəˌtāp, -ēōˌt-\ *n* **1** : VIDEO TAPE RECORDING **2** : the magnetic tape used in a videotape

^{2}videotape *vt* -ED/-ING/-S : to make a video tape recording of

vi·et·nam·iza·tion \vēˌetnəməˈzāshən, ˌvyet-, -ˌmīˈz- *also* ˌvēət-*or* ˌvēt-\ *n, usu cap* [*Vietnam* country in Indochina + *-ization*] : the act or process of transferring to the responsibility of the Vietnamese ⟨*Vietnamization* of the war⟩ — **vi·et·nam·ize** \vēˈetnəˌmīz, ˈvyet-, ˈvēət-, ˈvēt-\ *vb* -ED/-ING/-S *usu cap*

-ville \ˌvil *esp South* ˌvəl\ *n suffix* -S [*-ville*, suffix occurring in names of towns, fr. F, fr. OF, fr. *ville* farm, village — more at VILLAGE] : place or category of a specified nature ⟨squaresville⟩

vin·blas·tine \vinˈblaˌstēn, -ˌstən\ *n* -s [contr. of *vincaleukoblastine* (herein)] : an alkaloid from Madagascar periwinkle used to relieve human neoplastic diseases

vin·ca·leu·ko·blas·tine \ˌviŋkəˌlükəˈblaˌstēn, -ˌstən; -ˌlükəˌ(ˌ)blaˈstēn\ *n* -s [NL *Vinca* + E *leukoblast* + *-ine*] : VINBLASTINE *herein*

vin·cris·tine \vinˈkriˌstēn, viŋˈk-, -ˌstən\ *n* -s [NL *Vinca* + L *crista* crest + E *-ine*] : an alkaloid from Madagascar periwinkle used to relieve human neoplastic diseases

vi·ri·on \ˈvīrˌīän, ˈvir-\ *n* -S [ISV *viri-* (fr. NL *virus*) + ^{2}*-on*] : a complete virus particle with membrane intact : the extracellular infective form of a virus

vital signs *n pl* : the pulse rate, respiratory rate, body temperature, and sometimes blood pressure of a person

voice-over \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* -S : the voice of an unseen narrator heard in a motion picture or television program; *also* : the voice of a visible character indicating his thoughts but without motion of his lips

voiceprint \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* [^{1}*voice* + ^{1}*print*] : a spectrographically produced individually distinctive pattern of certain voice characteristics that is an effective agent of identification

V/STOL \ˈvēˌstōl, -ōl\ *abbr* vertical short takeoff and landing

VTOL \ˈvēˌtōl\ *abbr* vertical takeoff and landing

wafer* *vt* : to prepare (as hay or alfalfa) in the form of small compressed cakes suggestive of crackers

wahine* *n* : a girl surfer

wake surfing *n* : the sport of riding (as on a surfboard) the wake of a powerboat

walking catfish *n* : an Asiatic catfish (*Clarias batrachus*) able to scramble overland for some distance that has been inadvertently introduced into waters of the southern U.S.

walk-up* *adj* : designed to allow pedestrians to be served without entering a building ⟨the *walk-up* window of a bank⟩

wan·kel engine \ˌväŋkəl-, ˌwä-\ *n, usu cap W* [after Felix *Wankel*, 20th cent. Ger. engineer] : an internal-combustion engine developed in Germany that has a rounded triangular rotor functioning as a piston and rotating in a space in the engine and that has only two major moving parts

warning track *or* **warning path** *n* : a usu. dirt or cinder strip around the outside edge of a baseball outfield to warn a fielder when he is approaching a wall, a fence, or bleachers

wasp \ˈwäsp, ˈwȯsp\ *n* -s *usu all cap or cap W* [*white Anglo-Saxon Protestant*] : an American of English or other northern European stock and of Protestant religious background

waterford glass *n, usu cap W* [fr. *Waterford*, city in southern Ireland where it was originally made] : an 18th and 19th century hand-blown flint glass of clear color with a bluish cast

wat·son–crick model \ˈwätsənˈkrik- *also* ˈwȯt-\ *n, usu cap W&C* [after J. D. *Watson b*1928 Amer. biologist and F.H.C. *Crick b*1916 Eng. biologist] : a model deoxyribonucleic acid structure in which the molecule is visualized as a double-stranded helix cross-linked by hydrogen bonds

wave function* *n* : a quantum-mechanical function whose absolute value squared is a relative probability

way-out \ˈ=ˌ=\ *adj* [*way out* (adverbial phrase), fr. *4way* + ^{1}*out*] : FAR-OUT *herein* — **way-out·ness** \(ˈ)=ˈ=nəs\ *n*

weak interaction *n* : a fundamental interaction experienced by elementary particles that is responsible for some particle decay processes, for nuclear beta decay, and for emission and absorption of neutrinos — compare STRONG INTERACTION *herein*

we·del \ˈvādˀl, ˈwā-\ *vi* -ED/-ING/-S [back-formation fr. *wedeln*] : to perform wedelns in skiing

we·deln \ˈvādˀl(ə)n, ˈwā-\ *n, pl* **wedelns** *or* **wedeln** [G, fr. *wedeln* to fan, wag the tail, fr. *wedel* fan, tail, fr. OHG *wadal;* akin to ON *vēl* bird's tail] : an oscillating movement of the body in skiing that involves short quick turns straight down the fall line ⟨if a skier is to learn *wedeln* —John Blatt⟩

wheel-er–dealer \ˈhwēlə(r)ˈdēlə(r) *also* ˈwē-\ *n* -S [irreg. fr. *wheel and deal* + *-er*] : a shrewd operator esp. in business or politics

wheel·ie \ˈhwēlē *also* ˈwē-\ *n* -S [*wheel* + *-ie*] : a maneuver in which a wheeled vehicle (as a skateboard, bicycle, or dragster) is balanced momentarily on its rear wheel or wheels

whipsawed *adj* [fr. past part. of ^{2}*whipsaw*] : subjected to a double market loss through trying inopportunely to recoup a loss by a subsequent short sale of the same security

whisker* *n* : a thin hairlike crystal of great strength

white backlash *n* : the hostile reaction of white Americans to the advances of the civil rights movement

white room \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* : CLEAN ROOM *herein*

whit·ey \ˈhwīd·ē *also* ˈwī-\ *n, often cap* [*white* + *-ie*] : the white man : white society ⟨Negro leaders who are seen as stooges for *Whitey* —*Times Lit. Supp.*⟩ — usu. used disparagingly

wig·let \ˈwiglət\ *n* -S [^{2}*wig* + *-let*] : a small wig used esp. to enhance a hairstyle

wil·son's disease \ˈwilsənzˌ=\ *n, usu cap W* [after Samuel A. K. *Wilson* †1937 Eng. neurologist] : a congenital disease marked esp. by cirrhotic changes in the liver and severe mental disorder due to inability to metabolize copper

windblast \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* [^{1}*wind* + ^{1}*blast*] : a gust of wind; *esp* : a destructive effect on a pilot ejected from a high-speed airplane

windchill** \ˈ=ˌ=\ *or* **windchill index** *n* -S [^{1}*wind* + ^{3}*chill*] : a still-air temperature that would have the same cooling effect on exposed human flesh as a given combination of temperature and wind speed — called also *chill factor*

window* *n* **1** : a range of wavelengths in the electromagnetic spectrum to which the earth's atmosphere is transparent **2** : an interval of time within which a rocket or spacecraft must be launched to accomplish a particular mission **3** : an area at the limits of the earth's sensible atmosphere through which a spacecraft must pass for successful reentry

wipeout \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* -S [fr. the phrase *wipe out*] : a fall from a surfboard caused usu. by losing control, colliding with another surfer, or being knocked off by a wave

wok \ˈwäk\ *n* -S [Chin (Cant) *wók*] : a bowl-shaped cooking utensil used esp. in the preparation of Chinese food

wolf–ra·yet star \ˈwůlfrīˈā-\ *n, usu cap W & R* [after Charles *Wolf* †1918 & Georges *Rayet* †1906 Fr. astronomers] : any of a class of white stars which are found mainly in the Milky Way and Magellanic Clouds and whose spectra are characterized by very broad bright lines esp. of hydrogen, helium, carbon, and nitrogen that indicate very hot unstable stars

won \ˈwȯn, ˈwän\ *n, pl* **won** [Korean *wŏn*] **1** : the basic monetary unit of Korea — see MONEY table *in the Dict* **2** : a coin or note representing one won

wooden rose *n* : a tuberous half-hardy trailing vine (*Ipomoea tuberosa*) grown in warm regions esp. for its hard showy yellow rose-shaped calyx and seed capsule

word* *n* : a group of information-conveying characters that have a specific storage point and are handled as a unit by a data-processing machine

workload** \ˈ=ˌ=\ *n* : the amount of work performed or capable of being performed (as by a mechanical device) usu. within a specific period

world line *n* : the aggregate of all positions in space-time of any individual particle that retains its identity

worry beads *n pl* [so called fr. the belief that the fingering releases nervous tension] : a string of beads to be fingered so as to keep one's hands occupied

wraparound \ˈ=ˌ=\ *adj* [fr. *wrap around*, v.] : of or relating to a flexible printing surface wrapped around a plate cylinder

write* *vt* **1** : to introduce (information) into the storage device or medium of a computer **2** : to transfer (information) from the memory store of a computer to its output storage device or medium

wu-ts'ai \ˈwůtˈsī\ *n* -S [Chin (Pek) *wu*^{3} *ts'ai*^{3} five colors] : a 5-colored overglaze enamel decoration used on Chinese porcelain since the Ming period

xe·nate \ˈzēˌnāt, ˈze-\ *n* -S [ISV *xenon* + ^{1}*-ate*] : a salt of xenic acid

xe·nic acid \ˌzēnik-, ˌze-\ *n* [*xenic*, ISV *xenon* + *-ic*] : a weak acid known only in the form of its hydrate ($XeO_3 . xH_2O$) and obtained by hydrolysis from xenon fluorides

xeno·biology \ˌzenōˈ+\ *n* [*xen-* + *biology*] : EXOBIOLOGY *herein*

xenon hexafluoride *n* : a highly reactive colorless crystalline compound XeF_6

xenon tetrafluoride *n* : a colorless crystalline compound XeF_4 that sublimes readily in air and is formed by heating xenon with fluorine under pressure

xi* *or* **xi particle** *n* : an unstable elementary particle existing in negative and neutral charge states with masses respectively 2585 and 2572 times the mass of an electron

x-ray astronomy *n, usu cap X* : astronomy dealing with investigations of celestial bodies by means of the X rays they emit

x-ray diffraction *n, usu cap X* : a scattering of X rays by the atoms of a crystal that produces an interference effect so that the diffraction pattern gives information on the structure of the crystal or the identity of a crystalline substance

x-ray star *n, usu cap X* : a luminous starlike celestial object emitting a major portion of its radiation in the form of X rays

xu \ˈsü\ *n, pl* **xu** [Vietnamese, fr. F *sou* sou] **1** : a monetary unit of North Vietnam equal to $\frac{1}{100}$ dong **2** : a coin representing one xu

ya·ma·to–e \yäˈmädˌō,wā\ *also* **ya·ma·to** \-ˈmä(ˌ)tō\ *n* -S *usu cap* [Jap *yamato-e*, fr. *Yamato* Japan + *e* picture, painting] : a movement in Japanese art arising in medieval times and marked by the treatment of Japanese themes with Japanese taste and sentiment

ya·yoi \(ˈ)yäˌyȯi\ *adj, often cap* [fr. *Yayoi*, site in Tokyo, Japan, where remains of the period were discovered] : of, relating to, or typical of a Japanese cultural period extending from about 200 B.C. to A.D. 200, being generally neolithic but including the beginning of work in metal, and characterized esp. by unglazed wheel-thrown pottery (**Yayoi ware**) usu. without ornamentation but often of florid shape

yellow pages *n pl, usu cap Y & P* : the section of a telephone directory that lists business and professional firms and people alphabetically by category and includes classified advertising

yé–yé \ˌyā(ˌ)yā\ *adj* [F, fr. E *yeah-yeah*, exclamation often interpolated in rock 'n' roll performances] : of, relating to, or featuring rock 'n' roll as it developed in France

yield to maturity : the total rate of return to an owner holding a bond to maturity expressed as a percentage of cost

YIG \ˈyig\ *abbr or n* -S yttrium iron garnet *herein*

yi–hsing ware \ˈyēˈshiŋ,-\ *also* **yi–hsing** \ˈ=ˈ=\ *or* **yi–hsing yao** \ˌyēˌshiŋˈyaù\ *n, usu cap 1st Y* [*Yi-hsing* fr. *Yi-hsing* (*Ihing*), town in southern Kiangsu province, China; *Yi-hsing yao* fr. *Yi-hsing* + Chin (Pek) *yao*^{2} pottery] : BOCCARO

yttrium iron garnet *n* : a synthetic magnetic crystal $Y_3Fe_5O_{12}$ that is used esp. as a filter for selecting or tuning microwaves

zaire \ˈzī(ə)r, zäˈī(ə)rˈ\ *n* -S [F *zaïre*, fr. *Zaire*, former name of Congo river] **1** : the basic monetary unit of the Republic of the Congo (Kinshasa) — see MONEY table *in the Dict* **2** : a note representing one zaire

^{1}zap \ˈzap\ *interj* [imit.] — used to express the sound made by or as if by a gun

^{2}zap *vt* **zapped; zapped; zapping; zaps** : to make helpless or sterile esp. by shooting

zea·tin \ˈzēətən\ *n* -S [NL *Zea* + E *-tin* (as in *kinetin* — herein)] : a cytokinin first isolated from maize endosperm

zebra crossing *Brit sometimes* ˈzebrə-\ *n, Brit* : a crosswalk marked by a series of broad white stripes

zelkova* *n* -S : a plant of the genus *Zelkova; esp* : a tall widely spreading Japanese tree (*Z. serrata*) resembling the American elm and replacing the latter as an ornamental and shade tree because of its resistance to Dutch elm disease

ze·ner diode \ˌzānə(r)-\ *n, often cap Z* [origin unknown] : a silicon semiconductor device used esp. as a voltage regulator

zinj·an·thro·pine \zinˈjan(t)thrəˌpīn\ *n* -S [*zinjanthropine* adj., fr. *zinjanthropus* + ^{1}*-ine*] : any of several closely related primitive extinct African hominids including zinjanthropus — **zinjanthropine** *adj*

zip code \ˈzip,-\ *n, often cap Z&I&P* [*ZIP* fr. *zone improvement plan*] : a 5-digit code that identifies each postal delivery area in the U.S.

zip–code *vt* : to furnish with a zip code

zir·ca·loy \ˈzərkəˌlȯi\ *n* -S [*zirconium* + *alloy*] : any of several zirconium alloys notable for corrosion resistance and stability over a wide range of radiation and temperature exposures

zone melting *n* : a technique for the purification of a crystalline material and esp. a metal in which a molten region travels through the material to be refined, picks up impurities at its advancing edge, and then allows the purified part to recrystallize at its opposite edge

zone refine *vt* : to produce or refine by zone melting

zonked \ˈzäŋ(k)t, -ȯ-\ *adj* [origin unknown] : being under the influence of alcohol or a drug (as LSD) : HIGH

zo·ri \ˈzōrē, -ōr-\ *n, pl* **zori** [Jap *zōri*] : a flat thonged sandal usu. made of straw, cloth, leather, or rubber