



of wood, stone, plastic, or rubber used (usually in sets) as a toy for children: *alphabet blocks*. **Build a house with your blocks.** **2** *Figurative*. **a** anything or any group of persons that keeps something from being done; obstruction; hindrance: *A block in traffic kept our car from moving on.* **b** an inability to do or learn a specified thing: *to have a mental block about spelling.* **3** *U.S. and Canada*. **a** a space in a city or town enclosed by streets. **b** the length of one side of a block in a city or town: *Walk one block east to the next street.* **4a** a number of buildings close together. **b** a large, single building consisting of a number of stores or shops, each with its separate entrance to the street. **5** a group of things of the same kind: *a block of ten tickets for a play.* **6** a short section of railroad track between two signals by which trains are spaced. **7** a support for the neck of a person being beheaded: *... a short sharp shock from a cheap and chippy chopper on a big black block* (W. S. Gilbert). **8** a platform where things are put up for sale at an auction. **9** a pulley or pulleys in a holder with a hook, eye, or strap by which it may be attached. Pulleys are used with a rope, belt, or chain, especially to transmit power and change the direction of motion. **10** a mold on which something is shaped or placed to make it keep in shape: *a block for a hat.* **11** a piece of wood, metal, or other material engraved for printing. **12** *Slang*. a person's head. **13** = blockhead. **14** *Medicine*. an obstruction of a normal function, as in the passage of nerve or muscular impulses. **15** *Sports*. an impeding action directed at an opponent: *The football player threw a block that knocked the ball-carrier out of bounds.* **16** the support under the keel of a ship in drydock. **17** *Geology*. a faulting in blocklike sections; block faulting. *Abbr:* bk.

—*v.t.* **1a** to fill up so as to prevent passage or progress: *The country roads were blocked with snow.* *svn:* bar, blockade. **b** *Figurative*. to put things in the way of; hinder; obstruct: *Mother's illness blocked my plans for her birthday party.* **2** to mount on a block. **3** to shape with a mold: *Felt hats are blocked.* **4** *Sports*. to hinder (an opponent or his play). **5** *Medicine*. to prevent normal function of (a nerve or muscular impulse), especially by the injection of an anesthetic. **6** to prevent or postpone the passage of (a bill) in a legislature. **7** *Cricket*. to stop (a ball) with the bat, simply to protect the wicket, without trying to hit for runs. **8a** to manage or control the exchange of (local and foreign currencies) by government order, to prevent the development of an adverse balance of trade. **b** to prohibit the use of (funds) for a given period of time, as during a war. —*v.i.* to act in opposition to an opponent, as in baseball, boxing, and football.

**block in (or out)**, to plan or sketch roughly without filling in the details; outline: *The artist blocked in parts of a portrait.* *The committee blocked out its plan.*

**block off**, to close off: *to block off a street to traffic.*

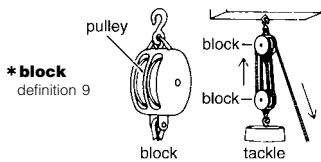
**blocks**, a pair of supports against which a sprinter braces his feet at the start of a race: *In the final, Wilma came off the blocks a split second behind the field* (Time).

**block up**, **a** to fill up so as to prevent passage, progress, or vision: *The landslide blocked up the riverbed.* **b** to raise on blocks: *to block up the chassis of the truck.*

**go to the block**, **a** to go to have one's head cut off: *King Henry VIII caused two of his wives to go to the block.* **b** to be for sale at an auction: *Several museums tried to buy the famous painting when it went to the block.*

**knock (someone's) block off**, *Informal*. to thrash; pummel: *"If I catch the thief who stole my ball," the boy said, "I'll knock his block off."*

**on the block**, up for sale or auction: *His collection of paintings will go on the block tomorrow.* [Middle English *blok*, perhaps < Old French *bloc* piece of wood] — **block' like'**, *adj.*



\*block definition 9

**blockade** (blo kād'), *n., v., -aded, -ading*. —*n.* **1** control of who or what goes into or out of a place, especially by police or by an army or navy: *Ships of the Union navy formed a blockade of southern ports in the Civil War to prevent foreign trade with Europe. After the earthquake police set up a blockade into town to prevent looting.* *svn:* See *syn.* under *siege*. **2** a navy, an army, or a police force used to blockade a place. **3** *Figurative*. anything that blocks up or obstructs:

*Sawhorses were used as a blockade to hold back the crowd.*

—*v.t.* **1** to put under blockade: *The firemen blockaded the area where the fire was raging.* **2** *Figurative*. to block up; obstruct: *His strong argument blockaded any change in the plan.*

**run the blockade**, to sneak into or out of a port that is being blockaded: *The "Sumter" ... succeeded in running the blockade of the mouth of the Mississippi* (Harper's). [*< block* (verb) + French *-ade*, ultimately < Latin *-ata*, feminine participial ending]—**blockad'er**, *n.*

**blockade-runner** (blo kād'run'ər), *n.* **1** a ship that tries to make a run into or out of a port that is being blockaded. **2** the owner, captain, or one of the crew of such a vessel.

**blockage** (blok'ij), *n.* an obstruction. **block and tackle**, a combination of pulleys and ropes to lift or pull something.

**block association**, *U.S.* an organization formed by residents of a city block or other small area to protect and promote their interests.

**block booking**, the renting or selling of motion pictures, or magazines in groups without permitting the exhibitor or retailer to make a selection.

**blockbuster** (blok'bus'tər), *n.* **1** a very destructive aerial bomb that weighs two or more tons. **2** *Informal, Figurative*. anything very large, forceful, or overwhelming. **3** *U.S.* a real-estate dealer who engages in blockbusting. **4** a motion picture produced at lavish cost. **5** a highly promoted best-selling book, especially a novel: *Big conglomerate money is what enables the hard-cover houses to pay out big advances for the potential blockbuster that they hope will allow them to hit the paperback-rights bonanzas* (New Yorker).

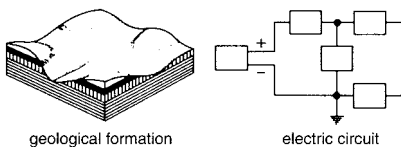
**blockbusting** (blok'bus'ting), *n., adj.* —*n.* *U.S.* the practice by some real-estate dealers of causing residents of a block to sell their homes or property at low prices by claiming the present or prospective entry into the neighborhood of persons of another race, religion, or nationality. —*adj.* *Informal*. very forceful; overwhelming: *a blockbusting performance.*

**block capital**, an upper-case block letter.

**block club or organization**, *U.S.* a group of city dwellers organized to improve conditions in the block in which they live and often to protect it from criminal elements.

\***block diagram**, **1** a three-dimensional perspective drawing, especially one representing a geological or topographic feature. **2** a drawing of any device, instrument, or system in which the parts are represented by rectangular or boxlike figures.

\*block diagram definitions 1, 2



geological formation

electric circuit

**blocked** (blokt), *adj.* **1** obstructed, hindered, or held in check: *a blocked kick.* *Blocked pesetas are Spanish funds whose exchange into dollars or other currency is prohibited by the Spanish government* (Wall Street Journal). **2** shaped on or with a block. **3** furnished with blocks.

**blocker** (blok'ər), *n.* **1** a person or thing that blocks. **2** a player who blocks an opponent or a play, especially in football. **3** a drug or chemical that inhibits the action of a substance or part of the body: *Methadone was dispensed ... nationwide as a chemical blocker and antagonist of heroin* (Byron T. Scott).

**blockfront** (blok'frunt'), *n.* **1** the frontage of a block: *The structure occupies the blockfront between 235th and 236th Streets* (New York Times). **2** a type of chest or desk front having three vertical sections, the center one sunk between the slightly raised ones on each side.

**block grant**, a fixed grant of money given by the government to local communities instead of separate grants for specific projects: *The H.U.D. office has turned down Hempstead's application for a community block grant* (New York Times).

**blockhead** (blok'hed'), *n.* a stupid person; fool; dunce: *No man but a blockhead ever wrote, except for money* (Samuel Johnson).

**blockheaded** (blok'hed'id), *adj.* dull and foolish; stupid. — **block'head'edly**, *adv.* — **block'head'edness**, *n.*

\***blockhouse** (blok'hous'), *n.* **1** a small fort or building with loopholes to shoot from. Blockhouses were made with hewn timbers, often with a projecting upper story. **2** a somewhat similar, smaller structure made of reinforced concrete, used in modern warfare. **3** a structure for protection against blast, heat, or radiation during the firing of a rocket, missile, or nuclear weapon.

**blocking capacitor or condenser** (blok'ing), a capacitor designed to stop the flow of direct current or low-frequency alternating current without impeding high-frequency alternating current.

**blockish** (blok'ish), *adj.* very dull or stupid.

— **block'ishly**, *adv.* — **block'ishness**, *n.*

\***block lava**, *Geology*. slaglike lava.

\***block letter**, **1** a letter or type without serifs or hairlines. **2** = capital letter. **3** a letter carved on a block of wood.

\***block letter** definition 1

## THE WORLD BOOK DICTIONARY

**block lettering**, block letters.

**block line**, a line over pulleys.

**block organization**, = block club.

**block party**, *U.S.* a party held on the street by residents of a block or neighborhood, especially to raise funds for a local organization.

**block plane**, a small plane used to smooth the ends of boards across the grain.

**block print**, a picture or design produced by block printing.

**block-printed** (blok'prin'tid), *adj.* printed by means of carved or engraved blocks of wood or other material: *In 868, the Chinese produced the Diamond Sutra, the world's first block-printed book* (Eugene Boardman).

**block printing**, a printing from engraved or carved blocks of wood or other material. It is used chiefly for textiles and greeting cards.

**block programming**, radio or television programming that retains the interest of a type of listener or viewer by grouping all programs with similar appeal in the same period of the day.

**block release**, (in Great Britain) periodic release of a worker from employment to allow him to attend courses at a technical school.

**blocks** (bloks), *n.pl.* See under **block**.

**blockship** (blok'ship'), *n.* a ship used to block a harbor, canal, or other waterway.

**block signal**, a signal to show whether a short section of railroad track ahead has a train on it.

**block system**, a system of dividing a railroad track into short sections with signals to warn a train when the section ahead is not clear.

**block tin**, commercial tin cast into molds.

**block or bloc vote**, **1a** votes cast by proxy and equivalent to the number of persons represented. **b** vote by a group having a common interest. **2** system of voting in which such votes are cast.

**blockly** (blok'ē), *adj.*, **blocklier**, **blockliest**. **1** like a block; chunky; solid: *a blocky pony.* **2** having patches of light and shade. — **block'ily**, *adv.* — **block'iness**, *n.*

**blog** (bloɡ), *n.* an online diary or journal entries posted on the World Wide Web: *[Samuel] Pepys's confessional diary anticipated the outpourings of 21st century bloggers* (New York Times). [*< Web + log*] — **blog**, *v.*; — **blogger**, *n.*

**bloke** (blōk), *n.* *British Slang*. man; fellow. [origin unknown]

**blolly** (blol'ē), *n., pl. -lies*. a shrub or small tree, of Florida and the West Indies, bearing oval leaves and bright-red, fleshy fruit. [short for *lob-lolly*]

**blond** (blond), *adj., n. — adj.* **1** light in color: *blond hair.* *svn:* flaxen. **2** having yellow or light-brown hair, blue or gray eyes, and fair skin: *a blond boy.* *svn:* fair. **3** (of wood) very light in color: *blond oak furniture.*

— *n.* a person having yellow or light-brown hair, blue or gray eyes, and fair skin. A man or boy of this sort is usually referred to as a *blond*, a woman or girl as a *blonde*. [*< Old French blonde* (feminine) probably < a Germanic word]

— **blond'ness**, *n.*

**blonde** (blond), *adj., n., v., blonded, blonding.* — *adj.* = blond.

— *n.* **1** a woman or girl who is blond. **2** Also, **blonde lace**, a silk lace, originally unbleached, now bleached white or dyed black.

— *v.t.* to dye blond; blonde. — **blonde'ness**, *n.*

**blondine** (blon'dēn), *v., -ined, -ining, n., adj.* *U.S.* — *v.t.* to dye (hair) blond; bleach; blonde. — *n.* a preparation for making hair blond; bleach. — *adj.* bleached: *blondine hair.*

\*blockhouse definition 1



**Pronunciation Key:** hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, ūce; hot, ōpen, ōrder; oil, out; cup, pūt, rŭle; child; long; thin; ʔnen; zh, measure; ø represents a in about, e in taken, i in pencil, o in lemon, u in circus.

door with a name, number, or the like, on it.

**doorpost** (dôr'pöst', dôr'-), *n.* = doorjamb.

**between you, me, and the doorpost.** *Informal.* as a secret; confidentially: *Between you, me, and the doorpost, our friend is in trouble.*

**door prize,** a prize given to a person attending a motion-picture theater, party, or other gathering. Door prizes are usually awarded by drawing numbers that correspond to those on the tickets of the attending persons.

**doorsill** (dôr'sil', dôr'-), *n.* = threshold.

**doorstep** (dôr'step', dôr'-), *n.* a step, or a set of steps, leading from a door to the ground.

**at (or on) one's doorstep,** close by; within one's sphere of interest, responsibility, or competence: *It is galling for the Americans to see a ruthless dictatorship established on their doorstep* (Manchester Guardian Weekly).

**doorstop** (dôr'stop', dôr'-), *n.* a device for holding a door open or for stopping a door from opening beyond a certain point.

**door-to-door** (dôr'tə dôr', dôr'tə dôr'), *adj., adv.* — *adj.* 1 going from one house, apartment, office, or other building, to the next and so on: *a door-to-door salesman*. 2 going from the starting point to the destination: *door-to-door delivery*. — *adv.* 1 from one house, apartment, office, or other building, to the next: *to sell door-to-door*. 2 from the starting point to the destination.

**doortrap** (dôr'trap', dôr'-), *n.* a trap with a door that swings shut upon the entry of an animal.

**doorway** (dôr'wä', dôr'-), *n.* 1 an opening in a wall to be closed by a door; portal. 2 *Figurative.* a way to get something; access: *the doorway to success*.

**doorweed** (dôr'wed', dôr'-), *n.* = knotgrass.

**door window,** a window reaching to the floor and opening like a door.

**dooryard** (dôr'yärd', dôr'-), *n.* a yard near the door of a house: *When lilacs last in the dooryard bloom'd* (Walt Whitman).

**doo-wop** (dü'wop), *n.* *Slang.* rock'n'roll group harmony music with a lead singer, especially popular in the 1950's and early 1960's. [imitative of the background harmony]

**doozier** (dü'zër), *n.* = doozy.

**doozy** (dü'zë), *n., pl. -zies.* *U.S. Slang.* a remarkable thing. [probably alteration of *deuce of*]

**dop<sup>1</sup>** (dop), *n.* a cup for holding a diamond while it is being cut. [*<* Dutch *dop* husk, shell, cover]

**dop<sup>2</sup>** (dop), *n.* a brandy made from the skins of grapes after the juice has been pressed out. [*<* Afrikaans *dop* *<* Dutch, husk, shell, cover]

**dopa** (dô'pə), *n.* an amino acid found in various plants, isolated from a variety of bean or made synthetically. *Formula:* C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>11</sub>NO<sub>4</sub> [*<* *d*(ihydr)ô(xy)p(heny)ä(lanine)]

**dopamine** (dô'pə mēn), *n.* a hormone produced by the adrenal glands that is essential to the normal nerve activity of the brain: *These hormones, particularly dopamine, play an intimate role in the tremors experienced by patients with Parkinson's disease* (Science News). [*<* *dop*(a) + *amine*]

**dopant** (dô'pənt), *n.* an impure substance added in very small amounts to a semiconductor to vary its conductive properties [*<* *dope* verb, to treat or coat one substance with another + *-ant*]

**dope** (döp), *n., v., doped, doping.* — *n.* 1 *Slang.* a narcotic drug, such as opium or morphine. 2 *Slang.* information; forecast; prediction: *"Where did you get all that inside dope?" asked Darby* (James T. Farrell). 3 *Slang.* a very stupid person. 4 oil, grease, or fuel additive, used to make machinery run smoothly. 5 varnish or similar liquid applied to a fabric to strengthen or waterproof it. It was formerly put on the cloth parts of an airplane to make them stronger, waterproof, and airtight. 6 an absorbent material used in the manufacture of dynamite. 7 *Slang.* a drug used illegally to make a race horse run faster or an athlete perform better. 8 *U.S. Slang.* a drink containing a stimulant, especially a kola. — *v.t.* 1 *Slang.* to give or apply dope to. 2 to treat or coat with another substance. 3 *Slang.* = dope out. — *v.i.* *Slang.* to use dope: *The boys are too kempt; . . . they dope not, neither do they drink* (Observer).

**dope off,** *Slang.* to act as if drugged; be or become doped: *I was so busy manipulating, inside me, all sorts of imaginary events that I would dope off into staring silences* (Harper's).

**dope out,** a to work out; figure out; discover. **b** to forecast; predict: *We would study the morning papers and . . . from them try to dope out the winners* (R. H. Davis). [American English, sauce *<* Dutch *doop* dipping sauce *<* *dopen* dip] — *dop'er, n.*

**dope addict,** = drug addict.

**dope fiend,** *Slang.* = drug addict.

**dopehead** (döp'hed'), *n.* *Slang.* = drug addict.

**dope pusher or peddler,** *Slang.* a person who sells or distributes dope.

**dope sheet,** *Slang.* a publication or part of a

publication offering information on the condition and record of race horses.

**dopester** (döp'stər), *n.* *U.S. Slang.* 1 a person who gathers information in order to predict the outcome of future events, such as horse races or elections. 2 an analyst.

**dopely** (döp'pē), *adj., dopelier, dopilest.* 1 *Slang.* drugged; affected by or as if by dope; drowsy. 2 very stupid. Also, **dopy.**

**dopiness** (döp'pē nis), *n.* *Slang.* state of being drugged or muddled; dopey quality or condition.

**doping** (döp'ing), *n.* the use of drugs or other stimulants in a sports competition: *Endurance bicycle racing was tainted by doping scandals.*

**Doppelgänger or doppelgänger** (döp'əl'gəng'ər), *n.* the ghost or double of a living person; doubleganger: (*Figurative.*) *This was Boswell's role in life: Doppelgänger to men of genius* (John Wain). [*<* German *Doppelgänger* double goer]

**Dopier** (döp'ər), *n.* a member of a strict Calvinistic sect in South Africa.

**Doppler broadening** (döp'lər), the broadening of a line or lines of a spectrum due to the Doppler effect, as a result of a relative difference in velocity of the radiating atoms or molecules.

**Doppler effect.** *Physics.* the apparent change in wave frequency when either the source of waves or the observer moves toward or away from the other. *Example:* the increase and decrease in the pitch or frequency of a train's whistle as the train passes an observer. [*<* Christian J. Doppler, 1803-1853, Austrian physicist, who described it]

**Doppler radar,** 1 a radar for determining the velocity of a moving object, such as an aircraft or a speeding car by the use of dopap. 2 = dopap.

**Doppler shift,** the apparent shift in the lines of a luminous body's spectrum as the body approaches or recedes from an observer.

**dopy** (döp'pē), *adj., dopelier, dopilest.* = dopey.

**dor<sup>1</sup>** (dôr), *n., or dor bug.* 1 a European dung beetle. 2 any one of various other beetles, such as the cockchafer. Also, **dorr.** [Old English *dora*]

**dor<sup>2</sup>** (dôr), *n.* *Obsolete.* mockery; (practical) joke. [perhaps *<* Scandinavian (compare Old Icelandic *dár* mockery)]

**doraido** (dä rä'dô), *n., pl. -dos.* = dolphin (def. 2). [*<* Spanish *dorado* dolphin; (literally) golden (because of their coloration)]

**Doraido** (dä rä'dô), *n. genitive Do[ra]idus.* a southern constellation between Carina and Phoenix, the site of the larger of the two Magellanic Clouds. [*<* *dorado* (because of its shape)]

**Doraidus** (dä rä'däs), *n. genitive of Dorado.*

**do-rag** (dü'rag), *n.* a head scarf, worn mainly by young men.

**doribeetle** (dôr'bē'təl), *n.* = dor<sup>1</sup>.

**doricas** (dôr'kəs), *n., or dorcas gazelle,* a very small, light-brown gazelle; ariel. [*<* New Latin *Dorcas* the genus name *<* Greek *dorkás* deer, gazelle]

**Doricas** (dôr'kəs), *n.* a woman who made clothes for the poor (in the Bible, Acts 9:36-41).

**doré** (dô rä'), *adj., n. —adj.* 1 golden; gilded: *a steel-and-bronze doré inkstand*. 2 containing gold: *doré metal. Doré bullion is silver that contains small parts of gold.* — *n.* an alloy of silver and gold. [*<* French]

**do-re-mi** (dô'rä'mē'), *n.* *U.S. Slang.* money; dough: *Corst doesn't have enough do-re-mi in his pocket to acquire a second-hand mousetrap* (Time). [*<* *dô*<sup>2</sup> + *re*<sup>1</sup> + *mi* musical notes (because *do* is pronounced the same as slang *dough* money)]

**dorihawk** (dôr'hök'), *n.* the goatsucker or nightjar of Europe; nighthawk. [*<* *dor*<sup>1</sup> + *hawk*<sup>1</sup>]

**Doririan** (dôr'ē ən, dôr'-), *n., adj. —n.* a member of a warlike Hellenic people who invaded the Peloponnesus, Crete, and Rhodes in the 1100's B.C. and put an end to Mycenaean culture. — *adj.* of or having to do with the Dorians.

**Dorian mode,** 1 one of the modes in ancient Greek music, characterized by simplicity and solemnity. 2 a mode of medieval church music, beginning and ending on the note D.

**\* Doric** (dôr'ik, dôr'-), *adj., n. —adj.* 1 of or having to do with the oldest and simplest kind of Greek architecture. The capital of a Doric column has a rounded molding. 2 = Dorian. 3 not refined; rustic: *a Doric dialect.* — *n.* 1 the Greek dialect spoken in Doris, a division of ancient Greece. 2 an unrefined or rustic dialect of English, such as Scottish.

**Doricism** (dôr'ə siz əm, dôr'-), *n.* a Doric peculiarity of speech.

**Doriden** (dôr'ī dən), *n.* *Trademark.* glutethimide.

**Doris** (dôr'is, dôr'-), *n.* *Greek Mythology.* the mother of the Nereids.

**dorje** (dôr'jə), *n.* a scepter in the form of a thunderbolt, held by Tibetan lamas as a symbol of the power of Buddha. [*<* Tibetan *dorje*]

**dork** (dôrk), *n.* *Slang.* a dull, stupid, or ineffectual person. [origin unknown]

**Dorking** (dôr'king), *n.* any one of an English

breed of chickens that have long, heavy bodies and five toes on each foot. [*<* *Dorking*, a town in Surrey, England]

**dorkly** (dôr'kē), *adj., dorklier, dorkliest.* *Slang.* dull, stupid, or ineffectual: *She asked Kate what she thought of Cle. "He's dorky," Kate responded. She didn't like his glasses* (Chicago Tribune).

**dorlach** (dôr'ləh), *n.* *Scottish.* 1 a bundle; package. 2 a valise; portmanteau. 3 *Obsolete.* a quiver<sup>2</sup>. [*<* Gaelic *dorlach* handful, large quantity]

**dorm** (dôrm), *n.* *Informal.* a dormitory. [American English; short for *dormitory*]

**dormancy** (dôr'mən sē), *n.* dormant condition: *Many seeds preserve their dormancy until they have been wet by a series of rains* (Scientific American).

**dormant** (dôr'mənt), *adj.* 1 sleeping or apparently sleeping; quiet as if asleep: *Bears and other animals that hibernate are dormant during the winter*. 2 inactive: *Many volcanoes are dormant. (Figurative.) The artist's talent for painting was dormant until his teacher discovered it.* *syn:* quiescent. See *syn.* under *inactive*. 3 with development suspended; not growing: *The plants, bulbs, and seeds were dormant during winter*. 4 used during the dormant period of plants: *a dormant spray*. 5 *Heraldry.* (of an animal) lying down with its head on its forepaws. [*<* Old French *dormant*, present participle of *dormir* to sleep *<* Latin *dormire*. See etym. of doublet *dormient*.]

**\* dormer** (dôr'mər), *n.* 1 an upright window that projects from a sloping roof. 2 the projecting part of a roof that contains such a window: *Notice the splendid mansard roof, with its double tier of dormers and fancy iron crestings* (New Yorker). [originally, a sleeping room, its window *<* Old French *dormeur* *<* Latin *dormitōrium*. See etym. of doublet *dormitory*.]



\* dormer definition 1

**dormered** (dôr'mərd), *adj.* having dormers: *There is a dormered . . . attic which can be finished into two additional bedrooms* (New York Times).

**dormer window,** a window built out from a sloping roof; dormer.

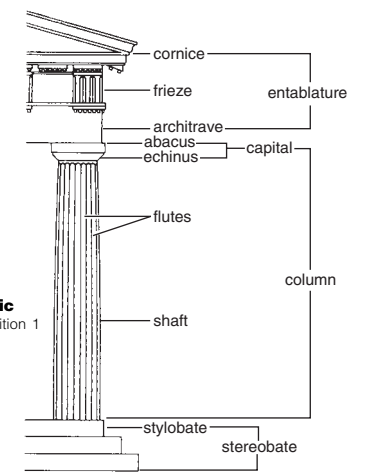
**dormice** (dôr'mis'), *n.* plural of *dormouse*.

**dormie** (dôr'mē), *adj.* = dormy.

**dormilent** (dôr'mē ənt), *adj.* sleeping; dormant. [*<* Latin *dormiēns, -entis*, present participle of *dormire* sleep. See etym. of doublet *dormant*.]

**dorimin** (dôr'min), *n.* = abscisic acid. [*<* *dorm*(ant) + *-in*]

**dormiltion** (dôr'mish'ən), *n.* 1 sleeping; a falling asleep. 2 dying; death. [*<* Middle French *dormiltion* *<* Latin *dormitio, -ōnis* *<* *dormire* to sleep]



\* Doric definition 1

**dormitory** (dôr'mə tər'ē, -tôr'-), *n., pl. -ries.* 1 a building with many rooms for sleeping in. Many colleges have dormitories for students whose homes are far away. 2 a room for sleeping in containing several beds, for example in a

**Pronunciation Key:** hat, äge, cäre, fär; let, ēqual, tērm; it, tōe; hot, öpen, önder; oil, out; cup, püt, rüle; child; long; thin; ðnen; zh, measure; ø represents ä in about, e in taken, i in pencil, o in lemon, u in circus.

boarding school: *The queerest little dormitories which . . . had once been nun's cells* (Charlotte Brontë). **3 Especially British.** a suburb in which commuters live. [*< Latin dormitōrium < dormire to sleep. See etym. of doublet dormer.*]

**dormobile** (dôr'mə bēl), *n.* **British.** 1 a kind of small van or bus. *He was being prodded into the back of a dormobile* (Sunday Times). **2 Dormobile.** a trademark for such a vehicle.

**dormouse** (dôr'mous'), *n.*, *pl.* **-mice.** a small animal of the Old World that looks somewhat like a squirrel and somewhat like a mouse. It sleeps most of the winter. Dormice are rodents. [origin uncertain; perhaps *< dialectal dorm to sleep, doze (< French dormir < Latin dormire) + mouse*]

**dorimy** (dôr'mē), *adj.* leading in golf by as many holes as remain to be played. [apparently *< dialectal dorm to sleep* (since further effort is of no value)]

**dorinick**<sup>1</sup> (dôr'nik), *n.* a kind of linen cloth used in Scotland especially for tablecloths. [*< Doornik, the Flemish name for Tournay, a city in Belgium, where it was first made*]

**dorinick**<sup>2</sup> (dôr'nik), *n.* U.S. a pebble, stone, or small boulder. [American English, probably *< Irish dorog fist, small stone for throwing*]

**dorinock** (dôr'nək), *n.* = dorinick.

**doronicum** (dā ron'ə kəm), *n.* any one of a group of European and Asiatic composite plants which are cultivated for their yellow flowers; leopard's-bane. [*< New Latin Doronicum the genus name < New Greek doroneikon < Arabic durūnaj*]

**Dorothy bag** (dôr'ə thē, dôr'-), *British.* a woman's handbag drawn together with purse strings and carried on the wrist. [*< the name Dorothy*]

**dorp** (dôrp), *n.* a village or town: *Swellendam is now a quietly thriving plattelrand dorp with . . . a total population of nearly 4,000 people* (Forbes Sturt). [*< Dutch dorp. See related etym. at thorp.*]

**Dorper** (dôr'pər), *n.* any one of a breed of mutton sheep raised in South Africa. [*< Dor(set) + Per(sian)*]

**dorr** (dôr), *n.* = dor<sup>1</sup>.

**dorrie beetle** (dôr'bē'təl), *n.* = dor<sup>1</sup>.

**dorisa** (dôr'sə), *n.* plural of **dorsum**.

**dorsad** (dôr'sad), *adv.* **Anatomy.** toward the back. [*< Latin dorsum back + ad toward*]

**dorsal**<sup>1</sup> (dôr'səl), *adj.*, *n.* — **adj.** 1 of the back; or near the back: *a dorsal nerve. A shark has a dorsal fin.* **2 Botany.** of or on the back of an organ or part: *the dorsal surface of a leaf.* **3 Phonetics.** articulated with the back of the tongue.

— **n.** 1 **Biology.** a dorsal part, such as a dorsal fin or vertebra. **2 Phonetics.** a dorsal sound. [*< Late Latin dorsālis < Latin dorsum the back*]

**dorsal**<sup>2</sup> (dôr'səl), *n.* = dossal.

**dorsal fin,** a fin or finlike part on the back of most aquatic vertebrates. See picture under **fin**<sup>1</sup>.

**dorsalis** (dôr sā'lis), *n.* an artery which supplies the back of an organ or part. [*< New Latin dorsalis (in Latin, adjective, on the back); see etym. under dorsal*<sup>1</sup>]

**dorsally** (dôr'sə lē), *adv.* 1 on the back; by the back. 2 toward the back.

**dorsay** (dôr sā'), *n.* a woman's pump with each side cut low in the shape of a V. [*< Count Alfred d'Orsay, 1801-1852, French artist and society figure*]

**Dorset**<sup>1</sup> (dôr'sit), *n.* an arctic Eskimo culture, believed to have flourished until approximately 1000 A.D. [*< Cape Dorset, Greenland, where it was first identified*]

**Dorset**<sup>2</sup> (dôr'sit), *n.*, or **Dorset Horn,** any one of an English breed of sheep having large horns and wool of medium length. Dorsets produce lambs at any season of the year. They are raised chiefly for their meat along the Atlantic coast. [*< Dorset (shire), a county in England*]

**dorsiferous** (dôr sif'ər əs), *adj.* **1 Botany.** bearing the fruit clusters of sporangia on the underside or back of the frond: *a dorsiferous fern.* **2 Zoology.** dorsiparous. [*< Latin dorsum back + English -ferous*]

**dorsiparous** (dôr sip'ər əs), *adj.* **Zoology.** hatching the young on the back: *Certain toads are dorsiparous.* [*< Latin dorsum back + parere to bear, give birth to + English -ous*]

**dorsispinal** (dôr'sə spr'ənəl), *adj.* having to do with the spinous processes of the vertebrae. [*< Latin dorsum back + English spinal*]

**dorsiventral** (dôr sən'ven'trəl), *adj.* **1 Botany.** having distinct dorsal and ventral sides: *Most foliage leaves are dorsiventral.* **2 Zoology.** dorsoventral. — **dor'si'ven'trally,** *adv.*

**dorsolateral** (dôr'sō lat'ər əl), *adj.* of or affecting both the back and the side. [*< Latin dorsum back + English lateral*]

**dorsoventral** (dôr'sō ven'trəl), *adj.* **1 Zoology.** extending from the back to the abdominal side: *the dorsoventral axis.* **2 Botany.** dorsiventral. [*< Latin dorsum back + English ventral*]

— **dor'so'ven'trally,** *adv.*

**dorsum** (dôr'səm), *n.*, *pl.* **-sa.** 1 the back; outer surface of an organ or part: *the dorsum of the hand.* **2 Phonetics.** the back part of the tongue. [*< Latin dorsum*]

**dortly** (dôr'tē), *adj.* **Scottish.** ill-humored; sulky.

**\*dortly**<sup>1</sup> (dôr'ē, dôr'-), *n.*, *pl.* **-ries.** a rowboat with a narrow, flat bottom and high sides. It was formerly much used by fishermen. [American English, perhaps *< Miskito* (a language of Nicaragua) *dōri*]

**\*dory'**



**dory**<sup>2</sup> (dôr'ē, dôr'-), *n.*, *pl.* **-ries.** 1 = John Dory. 2 any one of various related fishes, such as the walleyed pike of North America. [*< French dorée (literally) gilded. Compare etym. under dorado.*]

**doryman** (dôr'ē mən, dôr'-), *n.*, *pl.* **-men.** a man who rows a dory.

**DOS,** disk operating system.

**dos-à-dos** (dō zə dō'; *in dance calling, usually dō sē dō'), n.*, *pl.* **-dos** (-dōz'), *adv.* — **n.** 1 a figure in dancing in which two persons pass each other back to back and return to their places; *dos-si-do.* 2 an open vehicle or piece of furniture made for people to sit back to back.

— **adv.** back to back. [*< French dos à dos (literally) back to back; dos < Old French; see etym. under dossier*]

**dosage** (dō'sij), *n.* **1 a** the amount of a medicine to be taken at one time: *The correct dosage is very important in the treatment of sickness.*

**b** *Figurative.* a portion of anything; *dose: His mail brings him a daily dosage of opinion in which he is by turn vilified and glorified* (Time). **2** the giving of medicine in doses. **3** the intensity or length of application of X rays in certain methods of therapy. **4** the measured addition of ingredients to a substance to give it a certain strength or flavor: *A dosage of brandy is sometimes added to wine.*

**dose** (dōs), *n.*, *v.*, **dosed, dosing.** — **n.** 1 the amount of a medicine to be given or taken at one time: *a dose of cough medicine.* **SYN:** dosage. **2** the intensity or length of exposure to heat, X rays, or other radiation: *The biological effects of radiation are measured by the dose received* (Bulletin of Atomic Scientists). **3** *Figurative.* the amount of anything given or taken at one time; *portion: a dose of flattery.* **4** a portion of an ingredient added to a substance to give it strength or flavor. **5** *Figurative.* anything unpleasant or disagreeable to take or endure: *Father always says that a good dose of work never hurt anyone.*

**6** *Slang.* a venereal disease, especially gonorrhea.

— **v.t.** 1 to give medicine in doses; treat with medicine: *The doctor dosed the boy with penicillin.* 2 to administer in doses; divide into doses. **3** to add a dose to; blend; adulterate: *to dose wine with sugar.*

— **v.i.** to take doses of medicine: *That sickly fellow is always dosing.* [*< Middle French dose, learned borrowing from Late Latin dosis < Greek dosis dose, a giving < didōnai give*] — **dos'er,** *n.*

**doseimeter** (dōs'mē'tər), *n.* = dosimeter.

**dose rate,** the intensity of radiation to which a person or thing is exposed.

**dose-response** (dōs'ri spɒns'), *adj.* showing the relationship of dosage (of a drug, gas, radiation, or other substance) to the physiological effect produced: *A dose-response chart would have a line going from zero to maximum dose, with the risk accelerating* (New York Times).

**do-si-do** (dō sē dō'), *n.*, *pl.* **-dos, v., -doed, -doling.** — **n.** = dos-à-dos (def. 1).

— **v.i.** to execute a dos-à-dos.

**dosimeter** (dō sim'ə tər), *n.* a small device a person may wear for measuring the doses of atomic radiation received over a given period of time: *For safety's sake in the atom age, he may be equipped with a fountain-pen-sized "dosimeter"* (Wall Street Journal). [*< Greek dosis dose + English -meter*]

**dosimetric** (dō'sə met'rik), *adj.* having to do with the measurement of doses or with a dosimeter.

**dosimetry** (dō sim'ə trē), *n.* the measurement of doses.

**dosing tank** (dō'sing), a tank in a sewage treatment system for storing sewage before it is discharged into the next part of the system.

**doSS** (dōs), *n.*, *v.* **Slang.** — **n.** 1 a bed, as in a cheap rooming house. 2 a doss house. 3 sleep. — **v.i.** to sleep; bed down: *It was here that we doSSed down for our first night in the desert* (Atlantic). [probably *< French, Old French dos; see etym. under dossier*]

**dossal** or **dossel**<sup>1</sup> (dos'əl), *n.* an ornamental cloth hung at the back of an altar or throne or at the sides of the chancel. Also, **dorsal.** [*< Medieval Latin dossale, and dorsale, neuter of Late*

Latin *dorsālis; see etym. under dorsal*<sup>1</sup>]

**dossel**<sup>2</sup> (dos'əl), *n.* = dossil; a plug of lint.

**dossier** (dos'ər), *n.* 1 an ornamental cloth covering the back of a seat, especially of a throne. 2 a basket for carrying things on the back; pannier. [*< Old French dossier < dos the back < Vulgar Latin dossum < Latin dorsum*]

**doss house,** a cheap rooming house: *We have to halt at . . . a village without eating-place and only a doss house* (Manchester Guardian).

**dossier** (dos'ē ā. -ər), *n.* a collection of documents or papers about some subject or person. [*< French, Old French dossier bundle of papers; see etym. under dossier* (because the bundle of papers has a label on the back)]

**dossil** (dos'əl), *n.* 1 a plug of lint or cotton for stopping a wound; pledget. **2 Printing.** a roll of cloth for wiping excess ink from the surface of a plate. [*< Old French dissil spigot, plug < Late Latin duciculus (diminutive) < dux, ducis leader*]

**dossy** (dos'ē), *adj.*, **dossily**, **dossiliest.** *Informal.* stylish; smart. [apparently *< Scottish doss neat, spruce*]

**doSt** (dust), *v.* **Archaic.** second person singular of **do**<sup>1</sup>. "Thou dost" means "you do."

**Dostoevskian** or **Dostoevskyan** (dos'tə-yef'skē ən), *adj.* 1 of Fyodor Dostoevsky, Russian novelist and short-story writer (1821-1881). 2 in the style of Dostoevsky.

**do svīdānia** (dō svē dā'nyə), *Russian.* goodbye: *They [the Russian delegation] . . . bade their hosts do svīdānia, climbed aboard their own train and sped a bare mile across the border to dine and sleep in the security of their own country* (Time).

**dot**<sup>1</sup> (dot), *n.*, *v.*, **dotted, dotting.** — **n.** 1 a tiny, round mark; very small spot; point. There is a dot over each *i* in this line. 2 a small spot; speck: *a blue necktie with white dots.* 3 a short sound used in sending messages by telegraph or radio. **4** *Musical.* a tiny, round mark after a note or rest that makes it half again as long. **b** a point placed under or over a note to indicate that it is to be played staccato. **5** *British Informal.* an unspecified time very long ago (usually in the phrase *the year dot*): *Investigative journalism has been the core of the trade since the newspaper year dot* (London Times).

— **v.t.** 1 to mark with a dot or dots: *Dot your i's and j's.* 2 to be here and there in; give variety to: *Trees and bushes dotted the broad lawn.*

— **v.i.** 1 to make a dot or dots. **2** **Archaic.** to limp: *to dot and go one means to hobble.*

**dot the i's and cross the t's,** to make something very clear: [*He*] *dotted our i's and crossed our t's with a vengeance about the lack of men in the Navy* (London Daily Chronicle).

**on the dot,** *Informal.* at exactly the right time; at the specified time: *Our train arrived on the dot. Though he was there every day on the dot for ten years, no patron ever appeared* (Edmund Wilson). [Old English *dot* speck, head of a boil]

**dot**<sup>2</sup> (dot), *n.* = dowry. [*< Old French dot, learned borrowing from Latin dōs, dōtis dowry*]

**DOT** (no periods), Department of Transportation.

**dotage** (dō'tij), *n.* 1 a weak-minded and childish condition that sometimes accompanies old age; senility: *The old man was in his dotage and spent much of his time mumbling to himself.* **2a** excessive love or fondness; foolish affection: *Merlin fell in a dotage on the damsel* (Sir Thomas Malory).

**b** the object of such a love or fondness: *those two main plagues and common dotages of human kind, wine and women* (Robert Burton). [*< dote + -age*]

**doital** (dō'təl), *adj.* of or having to do with a dot (dowry).

**doitard** (dō'tərd), *n.* a person who is weak-minded and childish because of old age: *Thou were an old doitard and a fool* (William Caxton). [*< dote*]

**doitaltion** (dō tā'shən), *n.* the act of endowing; endowment. [*< Latin dōtatiō, -ōnis < dōtāre endow < dōs; see etym. under dot*<sup>2</sup>]

**dot-com** or **dotcom** (dot kom'), *n.* an online business or commercial Website: *supervising thousands of online students for an education dot-com; traditional businesses jumping on the dot-com express.* [*< .com the affix used in commercial Internet addresses*]

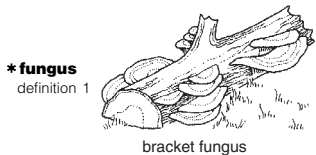
**dot-commer** (dot kom'mər), *n.* someone who works at a dot-com.

**dote** (dōt), *v.i.*, **dotled, dotling.** to be foolish and childish because of old age. Also, **doat.**

**dote on** (or **upon**), to be foolishly fond of; be too fond of; lavish too much affection on: *That mother dotes on her only son, spoiling him by granting his every wish. . . . now she could be romantic every evening, and dote upon Albert, without a single distraction, all day long* (Lytton Strachey). [Middle English *dōten*, perhaps *< Middle Dutch, be childish*] — **dot'er,** *n.*

**doited** (dō'tid), *adj.* 1 decayed or unsound: *doted timber.* 2 **Obsolete.** foolish.

**fungose** (fung'gōs), *adj.* = fungous.  
**fungosility** (fung gos'ə tē), *n., pl. -ties*. 1 the quality or condition of being fungous. 2 a fungous growth.  
**fungous** (fung'gās), *adj.* 1 of a fungus or fungi; like a fungus; spongy. 2 *Figurative*. growing or springing up suddenly like a mushroom, but not lasting or substantial. 3 caused by a fungus: *Wheat rust is a fungous disease.* [
**\*fungus** (fung'gās), *n., pl. -gi or -gusles, adj.* —*n.* 1 any of a group (kingdom Fungi) of organisms that produce spores and get nourishment from dead or living organic matter. Mushrooms, molds, smuts, rusts, mildews, and yeasts are fungi, which were formerly classified as plants lacking chlorophyll. 2 *Figurative*. something that grows or springs up rapidly like a mushroom. 3 a diseased, spongy, growth on the skin, such as granulation in a wound.  
 —*adj.* = fungous. [



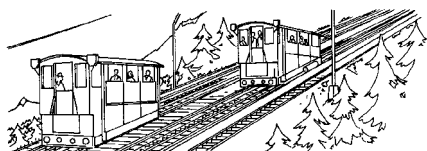
\*fungus definition 1

bracket fungus

**fungus beetle**, any one of various beetles that feed on fungi.  
**fun house**, a building at a carnival or amusement park, with devices that stun or surprise those who enter, such as mirrors that distort the image, unexpectedly sliding floors, and sudden blasts of air.  
**funicle** (fyū'nə kəl), *n.* 1 a small cord or cord-like part. 2 = funiculus. [
**funiculaire** (fy nē ky ler'), *n. French*. a funicular railway.  
**funicular** (fyū nik'yə lər), *n., adj.* —*n.* = funicular railway.  
 —*adj.* 1 a hanging from a rope; depending on or worked by a rope. 2 of a rope or its tension. 3 of a funiculus; like a funiculus. 3 consisting of a funiculus.

**\*funicular railway**, a type of railway used on steep grades, in which two counterbalanced cars or trains are linked by a cable so that when one moves down the other moves up: *To get the magazine to the summit, he carried a copy up a funicular railway from St. Moritz to Corviglia* (Newsweek).

**\*funicular railway**



**funiculate** (fyū nik'yə lāt), *adj.* having a funiculus.  
**funiculus** (fyū nik'yə ləs), *n., pl. -li (-li)*. 1 *Anatomy*. a cordlike structure, such as the umbilical cord or the spermatic cord, or a bundle of nerve fibers. 2 *Botany*. the stalk by which a seed or ovule is attached to the placenta. [
**Funj** (fūnj), *n., pl. Funj or Funjis*. 1 one of an African people occupying the wooded and mountainous region south of Sennar, between the White Nile and the Blue Nile. 2 the language of this people. Also, **Fung**.  
**Funji** (fun'jē), *n., pl. -ji, -jis or -jes*. = Funj.  
**funk**<sup>1</sup> (fungk), *n., v. -n. Informal*. —*n.* 1 a condition of panic or fear: *to be in a blue funk*. *syn:* terror. 2 = coward.  
 —*v.t.* 1 to be afraid of. 2 to shrink from; shirk. *syn:* evade. 3 to frighten or scare.  
 —*v.i.* to flinch or shrink through fear; try to back out of anything: *He always funked when competition grew too keen.* [Origin uncertain. Compare Middle Dutch *fonck* perturbation, or Old French *funicle* wild, mad.] —**funk'er**, *n.*

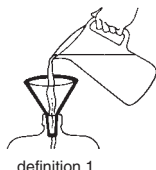
**funk<sup>2</sup>** (fungk), *n., v. -n.* 1 a strong, offensive smell, especially of smoke. 2 = funk art. [
 —*v.t.* 1 to blow smoke upon; annoy with smoke. 2 to smoke (a pipe).  
 —*v.i.* to smoke: *But there my triumph's straw-fire flared and funked* (Robert Browning). [perhaps < Old French *funkier, fungier*, ultimately < Latin *fūmus* smoke]  
**funk<sup>3</sup>** (fungk), *n.* *Jazz Slang*. a type of earthy blues with origins in gospel singing and African rhythms; funky jazz: *Funk was a deeper reach into Negro culture than jazz had taken before* (Time). [probably special use of funk<sup>2</sup>]

**funk art**, a type of pop art created from strange or bizarre objects, usually of a recognizable form, such as a huge toothbrush or a typewriter with finger-shaped keys.  
**funk artist**, a person who produces funk art.  
**funk hole**. 1 a rough shelter dug in the ground for protection against the enemy's fire; dugout. 2 *Informal*. a safe situation for a person shirking military duty.

**funkilia** (fung'kē ə, fūng'f-), *n.* = plantain lily. [Funkia the genus name < H. C. Funck, 1771-1839, a German botanist]  
**funk money**, *British*. hot money (def. 1).  
**funkily** (fung'kē), *adj., funkiiler, funkiilest*. 1 shrinking in fear; timid. 2 having a strong, offensive smell: *Lord, but this hallway was funky* (Louise Meriwether). 3 *U.S. Slang*. a having a flavor or sound like that of the blues; wistful and sad: *funky jazz*. 4 earthy; unpretentious; authentic: *a funky style of singing*. 5 elegant; fine; fashionable: *"That's a funky jacket, Kit Carson"* (Time).  
 —**funk'illy**, *adv.* —**funk'iness**, *n.*

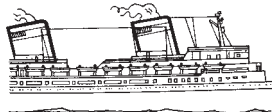
**funless** (fun'lis), *adj.* without fun; joyless.  
**\*funnel** (fun'əl), *n., v., -neled, -neling or (especially British) -nelled, -nelling*. —*n.* 1 a tapering tube with a wide mouth spilling like a cone. A funnel is used to prevent spilling in pouring liquids, powder, grain, or the like into containers with small openings. 2 anything shaped like a funnel: *a funnel of smoke*. 3 a round metal chimney; smokestack: *The steamship had two funnels. The steam locomotive had one funnel*. 4 a flue or stack for carrying off smoke or for ventilation or lighting. 5 the narrow cloud of a tornado that extends downward from a heavy, dark mass of cumulonimbus clouds: *A tornado has a strong lifting force due to the updraft of air in the funnel* (James E. Miller).

—*v.t.*, *v.i.* to pass or feed through or as if through a funnel or other narrow opening: *to funnel gasoline into a can. The crowd funneled through the gate.* (*Figurative*.) *She funneled all of her efforts into her career.* [fonel < Late Latin *fundibulum* < Latin *infundibulum* < *in-* in + *fundere* pour]



\*funnel definitions 1, 3

definition 1



definition 3

**funnel chest**, a malformed depression of the sternum and anterior portions of the ribs, often associated with rickets.  
**funneled** (fun'əld), *adj.* 1 having a funnel or funnels: *the double-funneled stem of whirling mist* [*a waterspout*] (D. Pidgeon). 2 = funnel-shaped.  
**funnelform** (fun'əl fōrm'), *adj. Botany*. having the form of a funnel, or inverted shallow cone.  
**funnel-shaped** (fun'əl shāpt'), *adj.* 1 shaped like a funnel: *From the base of a thundercloud a funnel-shaped cloud extends a violently twisting spout toward the earth* (Scientific American). 2 having a tubelike corolla slowly enlarging upward and spreading widely at the top; *infundibuliform*.

**funnel-web spider** (fun'əl web'), a spider which builds a horizontal web with a funnel-shaped retreat at one side. It is found especially in grass, low bushes, or houses.  
**funnies** (fun'ēz), *n.pl.* See under **funny**.  
**funiny** (fun'ē), *adj., -niler, -nilest, n., pl. -nies*. —*adj.* 1 causing laughter; comical; amusing: *The clown's funny jokes kept us laughing*. 2 *Informal*. a strange; queer; odd: *It's funny that he is so late*. *syn:* curious. 3 tricky or underhanded: *You'll be sorry if you try anything funny in class*. 4 impertinent; saucy: *I warned that boy not to get funny with the boss*. 3 *U.S.* having to do with the part of a newspaper containing comic strips.  
 —*n. Informal*. 1 a joke: *I hear he's a lawyer now, restricted, I suppose, to sneaking in a funny now and then in his summation to the jury* (New Yorker). 2 an amusing show, performance, or the like: *In 1935 "One Pair of Hands," Miss Dickens's account of her life as a maid and cook, turned out a real funny and brought her unsinkable fame* (London Times). 3 something peculiar, queer, or strange.  
**the funnies**, a comic strips; comics: *Dad likes to read the funnies*. 4 the section of a newspaper

carrying comic strips. [fun'ni-ly, *adv.* —**fun'nilness**, *n.*  
 —**Syn. adj.** 1 **Funny, laughable** mean such as to cause laughter or amusement. **Funny** implies almost any degree of amusement from a hearty laugh to a faint smile: *The funny little man and his funny little children keep our neighborhood smiling. Funny peculiar or funny ha-ha?* (Ian Hay). **Laughable** implies laughter, but often laughter that is scornful rather than hearty: *His fine airs are laughable*.

**funny bone**, 1 a sensitive place at the bend of the elbow where a nerve lies between the skin and bone; crazy bone. 2 *Figurative*. sense of humor: *The sophisticated, satirical irony is aimed at the mind and the funny bone, seldom the emotions* (Bosley Crowther).

**funny book**, = comic book.  
**funny business**, *Informal*. questionable or underhanded activity; monkey business.  
**funny car**, a type of drag-racing car with the body of a conventional automobile, a supercharged engine, and the driver's seat in the back.  
**funny farm**, *Slang*. an insane asylum: *He eventually had to be removed to the funny farm by the men in the white coats* (Bernard Levin).  
**funnyman** (fun'ē mān'), *n., pl. -men*. *U.S. Informal*. an actor or writer noted for being funny; comedian; humorist.

**funny money**, *U.S. and Canada. Informal*. 1 money that is not stable or redeemable. 2 money to promote an unsound or impractical venture.

**funny paper**, the section of a newspaper devoted to comic strips; funnies.

**fun run**, a running race that acknowledges participation rather than performance.  
**funsome** (fun'səm), *adj.* having or loving fun; given to amusement: *She signed on to replace Jennilee Harrison as the third member of the funsome threesome in "Three's Company"* (Maclean's).

**funster** (fun'stər), *n.* a person who tries to amuse with funny talk or actions; comedian: *The men of Lincolnshire, it turns out, are great funsters* (Manchester Guardian). [after punster]

**fuori le mura** (fwō'rē lā mū'rā), *Italian*. outside the walls (used in the names of certain churches of Rome): *In the eleventh and twelfth centuries there was some Romanesque building, including . . . the nave and cloister of San Lorenzo fuori le mura* (Harper's).

**fur** (fēr), *n., adj., v., furred, furling*. —*n.* 1 the hair covering the skin of certain animals. Fur grows on many mammals and usually consists of a short, soft, thick undercoat thinly covered by a longer, coarser outer coat. 2 skin with such hair on it, dressed and treated. Fur is used to make, cover, trim, or line clothing. *syn:* pelt. 3 any coating like fur, as on a plant. 4 a coating of foul or waste matter like fur. A sick person often has fur on his tongue. 5 *Heraldry*. one of three kinds of tincture (the other two being color and metal).  
 —*adj.* made of fur.  
 —*v.t.* 1a to make, line, trim, or cover with fur. 1b to clothe or adorn with fur. 2 to coat with foul or waste matter like fur: *The walls on all sides [were] furred with mouldy damp* (Joseph Addison). 3 *Carpentry*. to put furring on (beams or walls).

—*v.i.* 1 to grow fur: *In February the pussy willow furs in the chill wind* (New Yorker). 2 to become furred or fuzzy: *His voice doesn't vary from a monotonous mumble furring round the vowels* (Sunday Times).

**furs**, a garment made of fur: *Mother's furs keep her warm. Underneath is the picture of Sir William Cecil, after Lord Burleigh, in his gown and furs* (Daniel Waterland). 2 skins of animals with the fur on them: *Some furs are imported from Canada*.  
**make the fur fly**, *Informal*. to cause trouble; quarrel; fight: *I knew very well that I was in a devil of a hobble, for my father had been taking a few horns, and was in a good condition to make the fur fly* (David Crockett).

**rub** (or **stroke**) **one's fur the wrong way**, to irritate one: *With his persistent questions Tom ended up rubbing somebody's fur the wrong way*. [Middle English *furre* < Old French *fouir* to line with skins, encase < *feurre* sheath, case < Germanic (compare Gothic *fōdri*)] —**fur'less**, *adj.*

—**fur'like**, *adj.*  
**fur**, 1 furlong. 2 furnished.  
**fulran** (fyūr'an, fyū ran'), *n.* a colorless liquid prepared from fural, used especially in tanning

**Pronunciation Key:** hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, Tōe; hot, ōpen, ōrder; oil, out; cup, pūt, rūle; child; long; thin; ʔnen; zh, measure; ə represents a in about, e in taken, i in pencil, o in lemon, u in circus.

—*adj.* of a half-hour; lasting a half-hour: a *half-hour trip*.

**half-hourly** (haf'our'lē, häf'-), *adj., adv.* —*adj.* lasting half an hour.

—*adv.* every half hour.

**half hunter**, a timepiece similar to a hunting watch but with the central portion of the case cut away so that the hands are always visible.

**half leather**, a style of binding for a book, using leather for the back and corners.

**half-length** (haf'length', häf'-), *n., adj.* —*n.* a portrait representing the upper half of the person.

—*adj.* of half the full length: a *half-length portrait*.

**half-life** (haf'lif', häf'-), *n., pl.* —*lives*. the length of time it takes for half the atoms of a particular radioactive substance to break down or decay.

The half-life of a particular radioactive substance is always the same and is the principal characteristic used to distinguish one radioactive substance from another, and to measure radioactivity.

**half-light** (haf'lit', häf'-), *n.* 1 a light of half the full intensity. 2 a dim light: *Even in the half-light he could see her blue eyes shining like fragments of glass* (Punch).

**half-line** (haf'lin', häf'-), *n.* *Geometry*. the part of a line on one side of a fixed point; ray. The point itself is usually not considered part of the half-line.

**half-marathon** (haf'mar'ə thon, häf'-), *n.* a foot race of 13.2 miles, approximately one half the length of a marathon.

**half-mast** (haf'mast', häf'mäst'), *n., v.* —*n.* a position halfway or part way down from the top of a mast or staff; half-staff. A flag is lowered to half-mast as a mark of respect for someone who has died, or as a signal of distress.

—*v.t.* to hang at half-mast: *to half-mast a flag*.

**half measure**, inadequate measure.

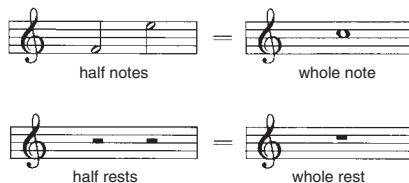
**half-miler** (haf'mil'ər, häf'-), *n.* a person who runs a distance of half a mile in a race.

**half moon**, 1 the moon when only half of its surface appears bright. 2 something shaped like a half moon or crescent. — *half-moon'*, *adj.*

**half mourning**, 1 the period after full mourning. 2 the style of dress worn in this period.

**half nelson**, a hold used in wrestling. It is done by hooking one arm under an opponent's armpit, usually from behind, and putting a hand against the back of his neck.

\* **half note**, *Music*. a note played for one half as long a time as a whole note; minim.



**halfpace** (haf'pās', häf'-), *n.* = footpace (def. 2).

**half pay**, 1 half the usual or full wages or salary. 2 a payment made to a retired or inactive officer of the army or navy that is a prescribed percentage of his active pay. — *half-pay'*, *adj.*

**halfpence** (hä'pəns), *n.* halfpennies.

**halfpenny** (hä'pə nē, häp'nē), *n., pl.*

**halfpennies**, *halfpence*, *adj.* —*n.* 1 a British coin worth half a penny. 2 the value of this coin. —*adj.* 1 worth a halfpenny. 2 having little value; trifling. Also, *ha'penny*.

**halfpenny/worth** (hä'pə nēwə'θ', häp'nē-), *adj.* as much as a halfpenny will buy; a very small quantity.

**half-pint** (haf'pint', häf'-), *n., adj.* —*n.* 1 half of a pint. 2 *Slang*. a very small or unimportant person. —*adj.* *Slang*. very small: *half-pint foreign cars* (Time).

**halfpipe** or **half-pipe** (haf'pip), *n.* 1 a section of pavement or terrain specially shaped to allow skateboarders or snowboarders to do jumps and other maneuvers. It is usually a U-shaped trough. 2 a snowboarding competition of halfpipe riding.

**half-plane** (haf'plān', häf'-), *n.* *Geometry*. the part of a plane on one side of a straight line drawn in the plane. The line itself is usually not considered part of the half-plane.

**half relief**, = mezzo-relievo.

\* **half rest**, *Music*. a rest as long as a half note.

**half-seas over** (haf'sēz', häf'-), 1a halfway across the sea. *b* *Figurative*: *I am half-seas over to death* (John Dryden). 2 *Slang*. half drunk.

**half shell**, one shell of a bivalve: *oysters on the half shell*.

**half-shot** (*n.* haf'shot', häf'-; *adj.* haf'shot', häf'-), *n., adj.* —*n.* a stroke in golf made with half a swing, intended to carry less than the full shot. —*adj.* *U.S. Slang*. nearly drunk.

**half sister**, a sister related through one parent only.

**half-slip** (haf'slip', häf'-), *n.* a woman's slip that hangs from the waist by an elastic band.

**half snipe**, = jacksnipe.

**half sole**, the sole of a shoe or boot from the toe to the instep.

**half-sole** (haf'söl', häf'-), *v., -soled, -soling*, to put a new half sole or half soles on (shoes or boots).

**half sovereign**, a former British gold coin, worth ten shillings or half a pound.

**half-staff** (haf'staf', häf'stäf'), *n.* = half-mast.

**half step**, 1 *Music*. the difference in pitch between two keys next to each other on a piano; semitone. It is the smallest interval in pitch used in ordinary scales. 2 *U.S. Army*. a short step prescribed in marching, 15 inches long in quick time or 18 inches in double time.

**half swing**, *Sports*. a swing of half the usual distance.

**half tide**, the state or time of the tide halfway between flood and ebb.

**half-timbered** (haf'tim'bərd, häf'-), *adj.* having the walls of wooden framework with the spaces filled by plaster, stone, or brick.

**half-time** (haf'tim', häf'-), *n., adj.* —*n.* Also, *half time*. 1 the end of half of the total period of play in football, basketball, or other timed game, usually marked by an intermission: *East led by 14-7 at half-time*. 2 half of the available time; half of the usual working time: *He spent only half-time on it*.

—*adj.* half of the normal time: *schools on half-time sessions*.

**half-tint** (haf'tint', häf'-), *n.* a half-tone in printing.

**half title**, 1 the title of a book printed on a full page by itself just before or after the title page; bastard title. 2 the title of any part of a book, or of the whole book, printed on a page preceding or including the text to which it applies.

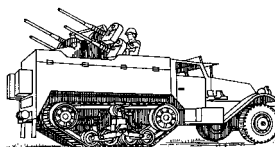
**half-tone** or **halftone** (haf'tön', häf'-), *n., adj.* —*n.* 1a a process in photoengraving in which gradations of tone in the original painting, drawing, or photograph are reproduced by means of a series of very small dots between fine intersecting blank lines produced by a screen placed in the camera a short distance in front of the sensitized film. *b* an illustration made by this process. *c* the metal plate made by this process. 2 *Fine Arts, Photography*. a tone intermediate between the extreme lights and extreme shades.

—*adj.* of or used in the process of making half-tone engravings.

**half tone**, 1 = half step; semitone. 2 = half-tone.

\* **half-track** or **halftrack** (haf'trak', häf'-), *n.*

1 a type of motor vehicle having wheels in the front for steering, and caterpillar tracks at the rear for driving power, used especially in the armed forces for mounting heavy weapons and carrying troops. 2 the track at the rear of such a vehicle. 3 *Electronics*. a method of recording on magnetic tape, using two half-width tracks on a single tape and thus doubling its capacity.



\* **half-track**  
definition 1

**half-truth** (haf'truth', häf'-), *n.* a statement, proposition, or measure, that contains some truth but is only half or partly true: *That air pollution control measures forced on landlords will result in further rent increase for tenants is the type of half-truths often used to becloud the facts and confuse the public* (New York Times).

**half volley**, a ball returned by hitting or kicking it the instant after it bounces, as in tennis, soccer, and cricket.

**half-volley** (haf'vol'ē, häf'-), *v.t., v.i., -leyed, -leying*, to make a return of (a ball) the instant after it bounces; make a half volley.

**half wave**, half of a complete wave of electricity, light, or sound.

**half-wave rectifier** (haf'wāv', häf'-), a circuit, vacuum tube, or other electrical device that uses one alternation of an alternating current to produce a pulsating direct current.

**halfway** (haf'wā', häf'-), *adv., adj.* —*adv.* 1 half the way: *The rope reached only halfway around the tree*. 2 one half; to half the full extent: *The lesson is halfway finished*.

—*adj.* 1 midway: *a halfway house between two towns*. 2 *Figurative*. not going far enough; insufficient; incomplete: *Fires can not be prevented by halfway measures*.

**go** (or **meet**) **halfway**, to do one's share to agree

or be friendly with: *What the game needs now is for Dexter and Worrell to meet each other halfway in launching the series on a vibrant note* (London Times).

**halfway house**, 1 a place operated in connection with a hospital providing an intermediate stage between full hospital care and complete release.

2 *U.S.* a place where young offenders who have nearly completed terms of imprisonment are rehabilitated before discharge or parole. 3 *Figurative*. a middle ground; compromise: *Between these two concepts there is no middle ground, no halfway house* (Wall Street Journal). 4 *Figurative*. a midway point in a journey or toward a goal.

**half-wit** (haf'wit', häf'-), *n.* 1 a feeble-minded person. 2 a stupid, foolish person. *syn*: simpleton, nincompoop.

**half-witted** (haf'wit'id, häf'-), *adj.* 1 = feeble-minded. 2 very stupid; foolish. — *half-wit'edly*, *adv.* — *half-wit'tedness*, *n.*

**half-world** (haf'wərd', häf'-), *n.* 1 a hemisphere: *Oskar . . . flees . . . after the war is over, thus spanning both half-worlds* (Canadian Forum). 2 the demimonde: *much too nice a girl, at times, for the half-world* (London Times).

**half-year** (haf'yir', häf'-), *n.* 1 half of a year; period or term of six months. 2 half of a school year or other year, whatever its length.

— *half-year'ly*, *adj., adv.*

**halibut** (hal'əbət, hol'-), *n., pl.* —*but*s (collectively) —*but*. 1 a large flatfish much used for food, found in northern waters. Halibut sometimes weigh several hundred pounds. 2 any one of certain other catfishes. Also, *holibut*. [*Middle English halybutte* < *haly* holy + *butte* flatfish (because it is eaten on holy days)]

**halibut-liver oil** (hal'əbət liv'ər, hol'-), *n.* an oil extracted from the liver of the halibut. It is the richest in vitamin A of all commercial oils.

**halide** (hal'id, -id; hä'fid, -lid), *n., adj.* —*n.* any compound of a halogen with another element or radical. Sodium chloride is a halide.

—*adj.* = haloid. [*< hal*(ogen) + *-ide*]

**halldom** (hal'ə dəm), *n.* 1 *Archaic*. a holy place; sanctuary: *The men of the Halldom, as it was called, of St. Mary's* (Scott). 2 *Archaic*. anything regarded as holy; holy relic: *As help me God and halldom* (Sir Thomas More). 3 *Obsolete*. holiness; sanctity. [*Old English haligdōm* < *halig* holy + *-dōm* position, condition]

**halldome** (hal'ə dōm), *n.* = halldom.

**halileutic** (hal'ē yū'tik), *adj.* of or having to do with fishing. [*< Latin halieuticus* < Greek *halieutikos* < *halieyein* to fish < *hals* sea]

**Hallogonian** (hal'ə gō'nē ən), *adj., n.* —*adj.* of or having to do with Halifax, Nova Scotia or Halifax, England. —*n.* a native or inhabitant of Halifax. [*< Medieval Latin Hallogonia* Halifax + English *-an*]

**halite** (hal'it, hä'līt), *n.* native sodium chloride; rock salt. [*< New Latin halites* < Greek *hals* salt]

**halitosis** (hal'ə tō'sis), *n.* bad or offensive breath. [*< New Latin halitosis* < Latin *hālitus*, *-ūs* breath, related to *hālāre* to breathe + *New Latin -osis* -osis]

**halitus** (hal'ə tēs), *n.* 1 the breath. 2 an exhalation; vapor. [*< Latin hālitus*; see etym. under *halitosis*]

**Haliliver** (hal'ivər, hol'-), *n.* *Trademark*. = halibut-liver oil.

**hall** (hōl), *n.* 1 a way for going through a building; passageway: *A hall ran the length of the upper floor of the house*. *syn*: corridor, hallway. 2 a passage or room at the entrance of a building; vestibule: *Leave your umbrella in the hall*. *syn*: foyer. 3 a large room for holding meetings, parties, or banquets. *syn*: auditorium. 4 a main room for common use, especially in a castle, palace, or other large dwelling. 5 a building for public business or assemblies. 6 a building of a school, college, or university in which students live or classes are held. 7 *British*. a large dining room in a college or university. *b* dinner served or eaten there. 8 the house of an English lord, squire, or owner of a big estate. [*Old English heal*]

**hallah** (hāl'ə, hāl'ə), *n., pl.* *hallahs* or *halloth* (hāl'ə), a loaf of rich white bread, usually shaped like a braid, eaten by Jews on the Sabbath, holidays, or ceremonial occasions. Also, *challah*. [*< Hebrew khallah*]

**Hall effect**, the deflection, within its conductor, of an electric current passing through a magnetic field. [*< Edwin H. Hall, 1855-1938, an American physicist, who discovered it*]

**Pronunciation Key**: hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, Tōe; hot, ōpen, ōrder; oil, out; cup, pūt, rūle; child; long; thin; tnen; zh, measure; ə represents a in about, e in taken, i in pencil, o in lemon, u in circus.

showy, trumpet-shaped flowers, mostly red or yellow. **2** any one of several related tall trees with digitate leaves, used for timber and in medicine.

[< New Latin *Tecoma* the genus name < Nahuatl *tecmaxochitl* < *tecomatl* calabash tree, earthen pot + *xochitl* rose, flower]

**teclita** (tek'tə), *n.* plural of **tectum**.

**tecltal** (tek'təl), *adj.* of or having to do with a tectum; tectorial.

**tecltilbranch** (tek'tə brangk), *adj., n. Zoology.* —*adj.* belonging to the marine gastropod mollusks, having the gills covered by the mantle, and small shells often concealed by the mantle.

—*n.* such a gastropod. [*< Latin tectus, -i* covered + *branchiae* gills]

**tecltilform** (tek'tə fōrm), *adj. Zoology.* **1** sloping down on each side from a ridge, as a wing. **2** serving as a covering or lid. [*< Latin tectus, -i* covered + *forma* form]

**tecltolgical** (tek'tə loj'ə kəl), *adj.* of or having to do with tectology.

**tecltology** (tek'tə'lə jē), *n. Biology.* that branch of morphology which regards an organism as composed of morphons of different orders.

[< German *Tektologie* < Greek *tēktōn* builder + German *-logie* -logy]

\***tecltonic** (tek'ton'ik), *adj.* **1** *Geology.* a belonging to the structure of the earth's crust and to general changes in it, such as folding or faulting. **b** resulting from these: a *tecltonic ridge*. Many geologists currently believe that the lithosphere is geographically divided into 6 major slablike sections, called *tecltonic plates*, plus a number of smaller ones (Edmund F. Grekulinski). See picture below. **2** *Figurative.* fundamental; basic: *The Kennedy election was a tecltonic shift generationally* (New York Times). **3** of or having to do with the structure of buildings; constructional; architectural. [*< Late Latin tectonicus* < Greek *tecltonikōs* of building < *tēktōn, -onos* builder] —**teclton'ically**, *adv.*

**tecltonics** (tek'ton'iks), *n.* **1** the science or art of assembling, shaping, or ornamenting materials in construction; construction. **2** tectonic geology; structural geology (of the earth's crust). **3** the branch of zoology that deals with structure.

**tecltonism** (tek'tə'niz əm), *n. Geology.* tectonic activity; diastrophism.

**tecltonophysics** (tek'tə'nəf'iz'iks), *n.* the application of the principles of physics to tectonic geology.

**tecltorial** (tek'tōr'ē əl, -tōr'-), *adj.* covering like a roof; forming a protective structure over something: *the tecltorial membrane of the ear*. [*< Latin tēcltorium* a covering (< *tegere* to cover) + English *-al*']

**tecltricial** (tek'trī'ʃəl), *adj.* having to do with the tectrices.

**tecltrix** (tek'trīks), *n., pl. tecltrilces* (tek'trī'sēz, tek'trī-), a feather covering the base of wing and tail quills. [*< New Latin tectrix*, feminine of Latin *tecltor* one who covers < *tegere* to cor]

**tecltum** (tek'təm), *n., pl. -ta.* any rooflike structure in the human or animal anatomy. [*< Latin tectum* roof < *tegere* to cover]

**ted** (ted), *v.t., tedded, tedding.* to spread or scatter (new-mown grass) for drying. [compare Old Icelandic *teþja* spread manure]

**Ted** (ted), *n. British Slang.* a teddy-boy.

**tedder** (ted'ər), *n.* a machine that spreads out hay for drying.

**teddy** (ted'ē), *n., pl. -dies.* a combined chemise

and drawers worn by women and girls as an undergarment, especially in the 1920's. [origin uncertain]

**teddy** or **Teddy** (ted'ē), *n., pl. -dies. British Slang.* a teddy-boy.

**teddy bear**, a child's furry toy bear. [*< Teddy*, nickname of President Theodore Roosevelt, who was famous as a big-game hunter and was once shown in a cartoon sparing the life of a bear cub]

**teddy-boy** or **Teddy-boy** (ted'ē boi'), *n. British Slang.* an uncouth, rough, idle, usually low-class young tough (about 15 to 25 years old), often violent; juvenile delinquent. [*< Teddy*, a nickname of Edward; in allusion to their fancy suits, cut in the style of *Edward VII*]

**teddy-girl** or **Teddy-girl** (ted'ē gēr'l'), *n. British Slang.* a teddy-boy's girl friend.

**Te Deum** (tē dē'əm), **1** an ancient hymn of praise and thanksgiving sung in the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches at morning prayers or on special occasions. **2** the music for this hymn.

**3** a thanksgiving service in which this hymn is prominent. [*< Late Latin Te Deum (Laudamus) Thee God (we praise), first words of the hymn*]

**tedilous** (tē'dē əs, tē'jəs), *adj.* **1** long and tiring; boring; irksome: *A long talk that you cannot understand is tedious.* *Life is as tedious as a twice-told tale* (Shakespeare). **syn:** wearisome. **2** writing or talking on and on; wordy; wearying; long-winded. **syn:** prolix. See **syn.** under **tiresome**.

[< Late Latin *taediōsus* < Latin *taedium* tedium] —**te'dilously**, *adv.* —**te'dilousness**, *n.*

**tedijum** (tē'dē əm), *n.* **1** the condition of being wearisome; tiresomeness; tediousness. **syn:** irksomeness. **2** ennui; boredom. [*< Latin taedium* < *taedet* it is wearisome]

**tedium vi'tae** (tē'dē əm vī'tē), = *taedium vitae*.

**tee**¹ (tē), *n., v., teed, teeling.* —*n.* **1** a mark or place from which a player starts in playing each hole in golf, often slightly elevated. See picture under **golf course**. **2** a little mound of sand or dirt or an inch-high stand of wood or plastic, on which a golf ball is set for the first drive. **3** a device for holding a football in position before it is kicked. —*v.t.* to set (a golf ball) on a tee.

**tee off**, a to drive (a golf ball) from a tee: *A field of 134 will tee off tomorrow . . . for the Professional Golfers Association championship* (New York Times). **b** *Figurative.* to begin any series of actions: *He will tee off this year's new ten-week course next Sunday with tips on "how to read a Shakespeare play"* (New York Times). **c** *Slang.* to make angry: *He was teed off when she failed to keep the date.*

**tee off on**, *Slang.* to denounce or criticize: *. . . ample room to tee off slyly on hipsterism* (Oscar Cargill).

**tee up**, a to set (a golf ball) on a tee. **b** *Especially British.* to tee off. [origin uncertain]

**tee**² (tē), *n.* the mark or peg aimed at in curling, quoits, and other games. [perhaps < *tee* 83]

**tee**³ (tē), *n., adj.* —*n.* **1** the letter *T*, *t* **2** anything T-shaped, especially a pipe fitting with three openings, one at right angles to the other two. **3** = *T-bar*.

—*adj.* with a crosspiece on top; T-shaped.

**to a tee**, to a *T*; exactly: *Politicians . . . are calculating to a tee how to extract the maximum advantage* (London Times). [*< Latin tē* the letter *T*]

**tee**⁴ (tē), *n.* an umbrella-shaped decoration, usually gilded and hung with bells on top of pagodas,

especially in Burma. Also, **htee**. [*< Burmese h'ti* umbrella]

**tee ball** (tē' bôl), *n.* a kind of baseball game in which no pitcher is used, the ball being hit from a stationary support used as a tee.

**tee-hee** (tē hē'), *interj., n., v., -heed, -heeing.* = *te-hee*.

**teel** (tēl), *n.* = *til*'.

**tee line**, a line running through the tee of a curling rink, perpendicular to the center line.

**teem**¹ (tēm), *v.i.* **1** to be full; abound; swarm: *The swamp teemed with mosquitoes.* **2** to be fertile, fruitful, or prolific: *His mind teemed with large schemes* (William E. H. Lecky). **3** *Obsolete.* to be or become pregnant; give birth. [Old English *tēman, tieman* < *tēam* progeny] —**teem'er**, *n.*

**teem**² (tēm), *v.t.* **1** to empty (a vessel). **2** to pour off (the contents); decant. —*v.i.* to flow out. [*< Scandinavian* (compare Old Icelandic *tæma* to empty < *tōmr* empty)]

**teemful** (tēm'fəl), *adj.* **1** fruitful; teeming. **2** *British Dialect.* full to the top.

**teeming** (tē'ming), *adj.* **1** full (of); alive (with). **2** fruitful; prolific. —**teem'ingly**, *adv.* —**teem'ingness**, *n.*

**teemless** (tēm'lis), *adj.* barren.

**teen**¹ (tēn), *n.* **1** *Archaic.* grief. **2** *Archaic.* pains; care. **3** *Obsolete.* revenge. [Old English *tēona* injury, damage, trouble]

**teen**² (tēn), *adj., n.* —*adj.* of or having to do with the teens or teen-agers; teen-age. —*n.* = *teen-ager*.

**-teen**, *suffix added to numbers.* ten more than \_\_\_\_\_: *Seventeen = ten more than seven.* [Old English *-tēne* < *tēn* ten]

**teen-age** (tēn'āj'), *adj.* **1** of or for a teen-ager or teen-agers: *a teen-age club.* **2** in one's teens; being a teen-ager: *a teen-age girl.*

**teen-aged** (tēn'ājd), *adj.* being a teen-ager; in one's teens: *a teen-aged athlete.*

**teen-ager** (tēn'ājər), *n.* a person in his or her teens.

**teenier** (tē'nər), *n.* a teen-ager; teen.

**teens** (tēnz), *n. pl.* the years of life from 13 to 19 inclusive; adolescence.

**teensy** (tēn'sē), *adj., -sijer, -sijest. Informal.* very small; tiny: *Of course, Max was not, or only a teensy bit, to blame* (W. H. Auden).

**teensy-weensy** or **teensie-weensie** (tēn'sē-wēn'sē), *adj. Informal.* teensy.

**teentsy** (tēnt'sē), *adj., -sijer, -sijest. Informal.* very small; tiny.

**teelny** (tē'nē), *adj., -nijer, -nijest. Informal.* very small; tiny.

**teelny-bopiper** (tē'nē bop'ər), *n. Slang.* **1** a teen-ager, especially a girl, who shuns adult conventions and often adopts hippie ways: *Teeny-boppers . . . flee to 4th Avenue in revolt against their parents* (Maclean's). **2** any teen-ager.

**teelny-weelny** or **teelnie-weelnie** (tē'nē-wē'nē), *adj. Informal.* teensy.

**teelpee** (tē'pē), *n.* = *teepee*.

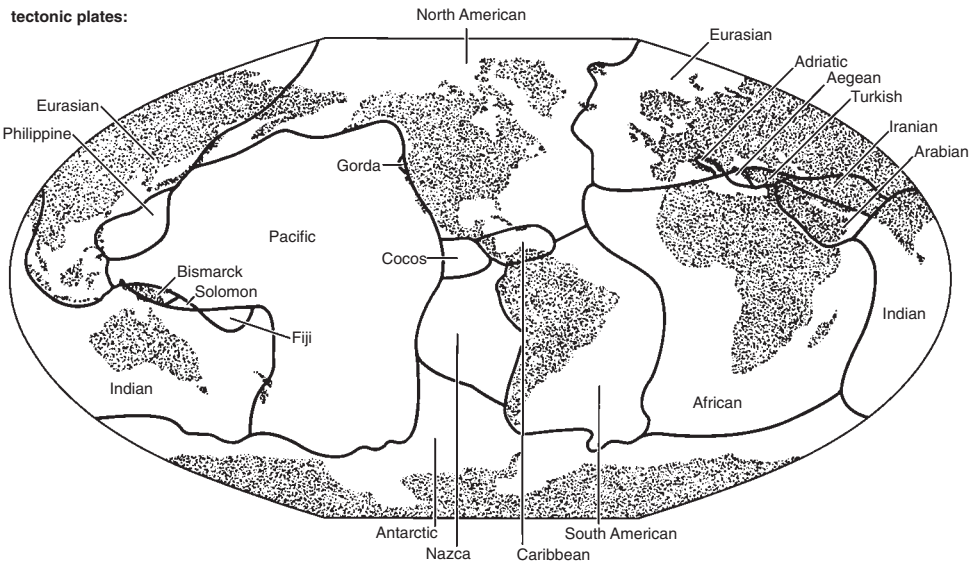
**tee shirt**, = *T-shirt*.

**teelsoo** or **teelso** (tē'sū), *n.* in India: **1** the brilliant orange-red flowers of the dhak or palas. **2** the yellow dye they yield. [*< Hindi tēsu*]

**teeltee** (tē'tē), *n.* = *titi*'¹. [*< Tupi titi*]

**teelter** (tē'tər), *v., n. -v.i., v.t.* **1** to rock unsteadily; sway. **2** to balance on a seesaw.

—*n.* **1** a swaying movement; reeling. **2** = *seesaw*.



\***tecltonic**  
definition 1b

sheet of pulp on this belt, in process of being made into paper. **c** a large roll of paper made in this way, such as that used in a rotary press for printing newspapers. **11 Architecture**, the masonry between the ribs of a ribbed vault. **12 Machinery**, the arm of a crank, connecting the shaft and crank pin. **13** = webbing. **14 Obsolete**, a kind of cataract, or similar growth on the eye.

—*v.t.* 1 to envelop or trap in a web. 2 to join by or as if by a web; twine; interlock.

—*v.i.* to form or spin a web.

**the Web**, = the World Wide Web: *But the Web—and the Internet . . . consists of millions of additional programs and servers; dozens cooperate to fetch a single document* (Scientific American). [Old English *webb*]

—**web'less**, *adj.* —**web'like'**, *adj.*

**webbed** (webd), *adj.* 1 formed like a web or with a web. 2 having the toes joined by a web. Ducks and beavers have webbed feet.

**webbing** (web'ing), *n.* 1 cloth woven into strong, wide strips, used in upholstery and for belts. 2 the plain foundation fabric left for protection, as at the edge of some rugs. 3 anything forming a web. 4 the skin joining the toes, such as that of a duck's feet.

**webby** (web'ē), *adj.* 1 consisting of or resembling a web: *webby fabric*, a *webby net*. 2 having a web; webbed: *the webby wings of a bat*.

**webcast** (web kast), *n.* a broadcast made on the World Wide Web. —**webcast**, *v.*

**Webelos** (wē'bē lōs, web'ē-), *n., pl. -los*. a cub scout of the highest rank. A Webelos is 10 years old and prepares to enter the Boy Scouts as a tenderfoot. [contraction of *We*(ll) *be lo*(yal) *s*(couts); originally coined as an imaginary tribal name < the initials of *wolf, bear, lion scouts* (the cub scout ranks)]

**weber** (vā'bar, wē'-), *n.* **Electricity**. 1 a unit of magnetic flux, equivalent to 10<sup>9</sup> maxwells. 2 formerly: **a** = coulomb. **b** = ampere. **c** = maxwell. [*<* Wilhelm E. Weber, 1804-1891, a German physicist]

**web-fed** (web'fed'), *adj.* having the paper fed on a printing press from a continuous roll instead of in single sheets.

**web-fingered** (web'fing'gərd), *adj.* having the fingers united for a considerable part of their length by a fold of skin.

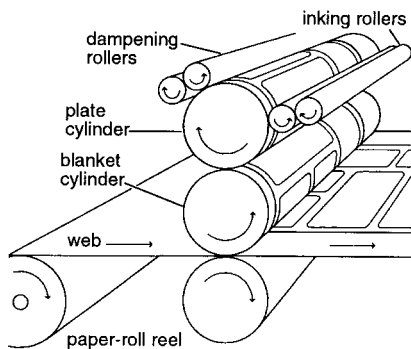
**webfoot** (web'fūt'), *n., pl. -feet*. 1 a foot in which the toes are joined by a web. 2 a bird or animal having webbed feet.

**web-footed** (web'fūt'id), *adj.* having the toes joined by a web.

**web offset**, offset printing by means of a web-fed rotary printing press.

\* **web press**, a rotary printing press in which the paper is fed from a roll.

\* **web press**



**Web site** (web sīt), *n.* a specific file or display of information, usually designed with text and graphics, which is accessible on a computer network through the World Wide Web (WWW), or the Internet: *For information in cyberspace, the computer user consults a Web site, chat room, or home page.*

**web spinner**, any one of an order of small insects with chewing mouthparts and forelegs that have silk spinning organs; embiid. Web spinners live in underground tunnels lined with the silk which they spin.

**webster** (web'stər), *n.* **Obsolete**, a weaver.

**web-toed** (web'tōd'), *adj.* = web-footed.

**web-winged** (web'wɪŋd'), *adj.* (of bats) having wings consisting of a large web or membrane supported and extended by the forelimbs and four elongated digits.

**webwork** (web'wɜrk'), *n.* 1 the structural part or web of a textile pattern. 2 **Figurative**, network: *the webwork of the city's highways* (Time).

**webworm** (web'wɜrm'), *n.* any one of certain gregarious caterpillars that spin large webs.

**Wechsler-Bellevue Scale** (weks'lər bel'vü), **Psychology**, a series of tests to determine intelligence and mental age. [*<* David Wechsler, an American psychologist, who devised it at Bellevue Psychiatric Hospital, New York]

**Wechsler test**, = Wechsler-Bellevue Scale.

**wecht** (weht), *n.* **Scottish**, weight.

**wed** (wed), *v.*, **wedded**, **wedded** or **wed**,

**wedding**. —*v.t.* **1a** = marry. **b** to unite in marriage; conduct the marriage ceremony for. **c** to give (a woman) in marriage. **2 Figurative**, to unite or join closely. **3 Figurative**, to be obstinately attached to (an opinion, one's own will, or a habit or faction).

—*v.i.* to enter into marriage; marry. [Old English *weddian* < *wedd* a pledge. Compare etym. under *wad'*, *wadset*.]

**wed'** (wēd; *unstressed* wid), 1 we had. 2 we should. 3 we would.

**Wed.**, Wednesday.

**wedded** (wed'id), *adj.* 1 joined in wedlock; married. 2 of or having to do with marriage or married persons; connubial: *wedded bliss*. 3 **Figurative**, united. 4 **Figurative**, devoted.

**Weddell seal** (wed'əl), a large, common hair seal of the antarctic regions. It lives mostly in the water and below the ice in winter. [*<* James Weddell, 1787-1834, an English navigator, who commanded antarctic sealing ships]

**wedding** (wed'ing), *n.* 1 a marriage ceremony with its attendant festivities. **syn.** See **syn.** under **marriage**. 2 an anniversary of this. A golden wedding is the fiftieth anniversary of a marriage.

3 **Figurative**, a close union or association; joining; combination; merger: *A chemical wedding between the element boron and organic substances promised industry a new family of compounds* (Science News Letter). [Old English *weddung* < *weddian* to wed]

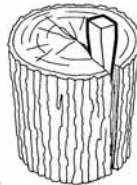
**wedding cake**, a large, rich cake, usually arranged in tiers, covered with icing, and decorated with sugar ornaments, then cut and distributed to the guests at a wedding reception.

**wedding ring**, a ring of platinum, gold, or other precious metal, placed on the third finger of the left hand of the bride. In a double-ring ceremony, the bride places a ring on the bridegroom's finger.

**wedel** (vā'dəl), *v.i.* to ski by performing wedeln. [back formation < *wedeln*]

**wedeln** (vā'dəlŋ), *n., v. —n.* the act or technique of skiing downhill with fast, swiveling turns to the right and left while skis are kept parallel and close together. —*v.i.* to ski in this manner; wedel. [*<* German *wedeln* (literally) to wag]

\* **wedge** (wej), *n., v.*, **wedged**, **wedging**. —*n.* 1 a piece of wood or metal, thick at one end and tapering to a thin edge at the other, used especially in splitting and separating. It is one of the simple machines. **2a** something shaped like a wedge: *a wedge of cheese or pie*. *Wild geese fly in a wedge*. **b** a cuneiform stroke or character of this shape. **3 Figurative**, something used like a wedge: *to drive a wedge of suspicion between friends*, *to drive a wedge of tanks through the enemy line*. **4 Meteorology**, a long, narrow area of high pressure between two cyclonic systems. **5** a golf club used for high, short shots, especially lofting the ball out of traps and heavy grass: [*She clinched the match with a 100-foot wedge shot* (New York Times)]. **6** a woman's short haircut that falls over the forehead and forms a triangle in the back. —*v.t.* 1 to split or separate with or as if with a wedge or wedges. 2 to fasten or tighten with a wedge or wedges. 3 to thrust or pack in tightly; squeeze: *to wedge passengers into a subway train*. *He wedged himself through the narrow window*. *The man's foot was wedged between the rocks*. **4 Ceramics**, to expel air bubbles from (clay) by cutting it into lumps or wedges and beating it. —*v.i.* 1 to force a way or opening: *to wedge through a crowd*. 2 to become stuck or caught: *Two fat men wedged in a doorway*. [Old English *wecg*]—**wedge'like'**, *adj.*



\* **wedge**  
definitions 1, 2b



cuneiform characters

**wedgebill** (wej'bil'), *n.* any one of a group of South American hummingbirds with a thick bill

that abruptly tapers to a point at the end.

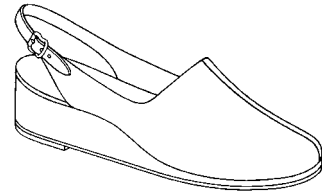
**wedge issue**, an issue that divides or distinguishes points of view: *The White House is preparing "wedge" issues to sharply distinguish Republicans from Democrats* (Time).

**wedgier** (wej'ər), *n.* a workman who cuts clay into lumps or wedges and beats it to expel air bubbles.

**wedge-shaped** (wej'shāpt'), *adj.* shaped like a wedge; cuneate.

**wedge-tailed eagle** (wej'tāld'), a large, black eagle of Australia with tail feathers that taper to the shape of a wedge.

\* **wedgie** (wej'ē), *n.* a woman's shoe resembling a clog, with a thick, wedgelike piece forming a sole, all of which touches the ground, without the customary arched instep.



\* **wedgie**

**Wedgwood** (wej'wud), *n., adj.* **Trademark. —n.** a kind of English pottery, especially with a blue or black glaze and a design of white-colored Greek and Roman models in relief.

—*adj.* of or having to do with this kind of pottery: *Wedgwood ware*. [*<* Josiah Wedgwood, 1730-1795, an English potter, who developed this kind of pottery and design]

**Wedgwood blue**, a shade of medium blue characteristic of Wedgwood ware.

**wedgily** (wej'ē), *adj.* 1 formed or adapted to use as a wedge. 2 fitted for prying into or among.

**wedlock** (wed'lok), *n.* 1 married state; marriage: *to be united in wedlock*. *The king's illegitimate son was born out of wedlock*. 2 **Obsolete**, the marriage ceremony; wedding. [Old English *wedlāc* marriage vow < *wedd* a pledge + *-lāc*, a noun suffix]

**Wednesday** (wenz'dē, -dā), *n.* the fourth day of the calendar week, between Tuesday and Thursday. **Abbr.** Wed., W. [Old English *Wōdnesdæg* Woden's day < *Wōden* Woden; translation of Late Latin *Mercurii dies* day of Mercury]

**wee** (wē), *adj., weler, welest, n. —adj.* very small; tiny. —*n.* a little; bit; mite. [Middle English *we*, variant of *wei* < Old English *wāege* weight]

**weed'** (wēd), *n., v. —n.* 1 a useless or troublesome plant: *Weeds choked out the vegetables and flowers in the garden*. **2a Figurative**, a useless or troublesome person or thing. **b** a useless animal, especially a horse unfit for racing or breeding. **c Figurative**, any very weak or malformed thing. **3 Informal**, a cigarette or cigar. **b** Also, **the weed**, tobacco. **c marijuana**. **4 Archaic**, profusely growing wild plants; luxuriant underbrush.

—*v.t.* to take weeds out of: *Please weed the garden now*.

—*v.i.* 1 to take out weeds or anything like weeds. **2 Figurative**, to clear anything of something harmful or useless.

**weed out**, **a** to free from what is useless or worthless: *Mother weeded out the old letters she wanted to save and threw the rest away*. **b** to remove as useless or worthless: *The general weeded out poor commanders*. [Old English *wēod*] —**weed'like'**, *adj.*

**weed<sup>2</sup>** (wēd), *n.* 1 a black cloth band, worn on the arm or (sometimes) the hat of a man, as a token of mourning. 2 **Obsolete**, costume: *monastic weeds*. 3 **Archaic**, any garment.

**weeds**, mourning garments: *a widow's weeds*. [Old English *wāeð*, or *wāeðe* garment. Compare etym. under *wadmal*.]

**wedled** (wē'did), *adj.* 1 from which the weeds have been removed: *a freshly weeded garden*. 2 overgrown with weeds.

**weeder** (wē'dər), *n.* 1 a person who weeds. 2 a tool or machine for digging up weeds.

**weed-grown** (wēd'grōn'), *adj.* overgrown with weeds; covered with weeds: *They stood in the weed-grown parade ground . . .* (Time).

**weedicide** (wē'də'sid), *n.* = weedkiller.

**weedkiller** (wēd'kil'ər), *n.* a chemical for killing weeds; herbicide.

**weedkilling** (wēd'kil'ing), *n., adj.* —*n.* the act or process of killing weeds: *Weeds . . . could easily get life insurance were it not for the modern technique of chemical weedkilling* (R. N. Higginbotham).

—*adj.* of or for killing weeds: *weedkilling operations*.

**weedless** (wēd'lis), *adj.* free from weeds.

**weeds** (wēdz), *n.pl.* See under **weed<sup>2</sup>**.

**weedly** (wē'dē), *adj.*, **weediier**, **weediest**. 1 full