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lodg-er (lɒdʒər) *n.* One that lodges, esp. one who rents and lives in a furnished room.

lodg-ing (lɒdʒɪŋ) *n.* 1. A place to live. 2. Sleeping accommodations. Often used in the plural. 3. **lodgings.** Furnished rooms in another's house rented for accommodation.

lodg-ment also **lodge-ment** (lɒdʒmənt) *n.* 1. **a.** The act of lodging. **b.** The state of being lodged. 2. A place for lodging. 3. An accumulation or a deposit. 4. A foothold or beachhead gained by troops in enemy or neutral territory.

Lo-dol (lə'dɒl) 1. A city of central CA N of Stockton. Pop. 51,874. 2. A borough of NE NJ NE of Passaic. Pop. 22,355.

lod-i-cule (ləd'ɪ-kyool') *n.* One of two or three small scales at the base of the ovary in a grass flower. [Lat. *lodícula*, small blanket, dim. of *lōdix*, *lōdic-*, blanket.]

Lodz (lədz, wɒdʒ). A city of central Poland WSW of Warsaw; chartered 1423. Pop. 849,400.

Loeb (ləb), **Jacques.** 1859–1924. German-born Amer. physiologist noted for his work on parthenogenesis.

lo-ess (lə'æs, lēs, līs) *n.* A buff to gray windblown deposit of fine-grained calcareous silt or clay. [Ger. *Löss* < Ger. dial. *Lösch* < *lösch*, loose. See *leu-**.] — **lo-ess'i-al** (lə-ēs'ē-əl, lēs'ē-əl, lūs'ē-) *adj.*

Loewe (lə), **Frederick.** 1901–87. Austrian-born Amer. composer who collaborated with Alan Jay Lerner on a number of musicals, including *My Fair Lady* (1956).

Loe-wy (lə'wē), **Raymond Fernand.** 1893–1986. French-born Amer. industrial designer noted for his streamlined designs.

loft (lɒft, lɒft) *n.* 1. **a.** A large, usu. unpartitioned floor over a factory, warehouse, or other commercial or industrial space. **b.** Such a floor converted into an apartment or artist's studio. 2. An open space under a roof; an attic or a garret. 3. A gallery or balcony. 4. A hayloft. 5. **Sports.** **a.** The backward slant of the face of a golf club head, designed to drive the ball in a high arc. **b.** A golf stroke that drives the ball in a high arc. **c.** The upward course of a ball driven in a high arc. 6. **a.** The thickness of a fabric or yarn. **b.** The thickness of an item, such as a down coat, that is filled with compressible insulating material. — **v.** **loft-ed, loft-ing, lofts.** — *tr.* 1. To put, store, or keep in a loft. 2. To propel in a high arc. 3. **Naut.** To lay out a full-size drawing of (the parts of a ship's hull, for example). — *intr.* 1. To propel something, esp. a ball, in a high arc. 2. To rise high into the air. [ME, sky, upstairs room < OE, air < ON *loft*, upstairs room, sky, air.]

loft-y (lɒf'tē, lɒf'tē-) *adj.* -i-er, -i-est. 1. Of imposing height. 2. Elevated in character; exalted. 3. Affecting grandness; pompous. 4. Arrogant; haughty. [ME, noble < *loft*, upstairs room, sky. See *loft*.] — **loft'i-ly adv.** — **loft'i-ness n.**

log¹ (lɒg, lɒg) *n.* 1. **a.** A usu. large section of a trunk or limb of a fallen or felled tree. **b.** A long thick section of trimmed unhewn timber. 2. **Naut.** **a.** A device trailed from a ship to determine its speed through the water. **b.** A record of a ship's speed, its progress, and any shipboard events of navigational importance. **c.** The book in which this record is kept. 3. A record of a vehicle's performance, as the flight record of an aircraft. 4. A record, as of the performance of a machine. — *v.* **logged, log-ging, logs.** — *tr.* 1. **a.** To cut down, trim, and haul the timber of (a piece of land). **b.** To cut (timber) into unhewn sections. 2. To enter in a record, as of a ship. 3. To travel (a specified distance, time, or speed). 4. To spend or accumulate (time). — *intr.* To cut down, trim, and haul timber. — **phrasal verbs.** **log in (or on).** **Comp Sci.** To enter into a computer the information required to begin a session. **log out (or off).** **Comp Sci.** To enter into a computer the command to end a session. [ME *logge*.]

log² (lɒg, lɒg) *n.* **Math.** A logarithm.

log *abbr.* **Logic.**

log- *pref.* Var. of **logo-**.

-log *suffix.* Var. of **-logue**.

Lo-gan (lə'gæn). A city of N-central UT N of Ogden; settled in the 1850's. Pop. 32,762.

Logan, Mount. A peak, 5,954.8 m (19,524 ft), of the St. Elias Mts. in SW Yukon Terr., Canada, near the AK border.

lo-gan-ber-ry (lə'gæn-bēr'ē) *n.* A trailing plant (*Rubus ursinus* var. *loganobaccus*) native to Oregon and south to Baja California and cultivated for its edible red fruit. [After James Harvey Logan (1841–1928), Amer. jurist.]

Lo-gans-port (lə'gænz-pɔrt', -pɔrt'). A city of N-central IN NNW of Kokomo. Pop. 17,731.

log-a-rithm (lə'gæ-rɪθ'm, lɒg'ə-) *n.* **Math.** The power to which a base, usu. 10, must be raised to produce a given number. If $n^x = a$, the logarithm of a , with n as the base, is x ; symbolically, $\log_n a = x$. For example, $10^3 = 1,000$; therefore, $\log_{10} 1,000 = 3$. [NLat. *logarithmus*; Gk. *logos*, reason, proportion; see *leg-** + Gk. *arithmos*, number; see *ar-**.] — **log'a-rith'mic** (-rɪθ'mɪk), **log'a-rith'mi-cal** (-mɪ-kəl) *adj.* — **log'a-rith'mi-cal-ly adv.**

log-book (lɒg'bʊk', lɒg'ə-) *n.* 1. The official record book of a ship or an aircraft. 2. A record book with periodic entries.

loge (ləzh) *n.* 1. A small compartment, esp. a box in a theater. 2. The front rows of the mezzanine in a theater. [Fr. < OFr., covered walk, lodge. See *longe*.]

log-ger (lə'gɜr, lɒg'ɜr) *n.* 1. **a.** One who logs trees. **b.** One

engaged in the logging business. 2. A machine, such as a crane or tractor, that is used for hauling or loading logs.

log-ger-head (lə'gɜr-héd', lɒg'ɜr-) *n.* 1. A loggerhead turtle. 2. An iron tool consisting of a long handle with a bulbous end heated to melt tar or warm liquids. 3. **Naut.** A post on a whaleboat used to secure the harpoon rope. 4. **Informal.** **a.** A blockhead; a dolt. **b.** A disproportionately large head. — **idiom.** at **loggerheads.** Engaged in a dispute. [Prob. dial. *logger*, wooden block (prob. < LOG¹) + HEAD.]

loggerhead shrike *n.* A common North American bird (*Lanius ludovicianus*) having gray, black, and white plumage, a black facial mask, and a hooked beak. [< its large head.]

loggerhead turtle *n.* A large marine turtle (*Caretta caretta*) inhabiting warm ocean waters and having a large head.

log-gi-a (lə'jē-ə, lɒj'ē-ə) *n.* 1. An open-sided roofed gallery or arcade along the front or side of a building, often at an upper level. 2. An open balcony in a theater. [Ital. < OItal. < OFr. *loge*. See *LOGE*.]

log-ging (lə'gɪŋ, lɒg'ɪŋ) *n.* The work or business of felling and trimming trees and transporting the logs to a mill.

log-ic (ləj'ɪk) *n.* 1. The study of the principles of reasoning, esp. of the structure of propositions as distinguished from their content and of method and validity in deductive reasoning. 2. **a.** A system of reasoning: *Aristotle's logic*. **b.** A mode of reasoning. **c.** The formal guiding principles of a discipline, school, or science. 3. Valid reasoning. 4. The relationship between elements and between an element and the whole in a set of objects, individuals, principles, or events: *There's a certain logic to gridlock*. 5. **Comp. Sci.** **a.** The nonarithmetic operations performed by a computer, such as sorting, that involve yes-no decisions. **b.** Computer circuitry. **c.** Graphic representation of computer circuitry. [ME < OFr. *logique* < Lat. *logica* < Gk. *logikē* (*tekhḗ*), (art) of reasoning, logic, fem. of *logikos*, of reasoning < *logos*, reason. See *leg-**.]

log-i-cal (ləj'ɪ-kəl) *adj.* 1. Of, relating to, in accordance with, or of the nature of logic. 2. Based on earlier or otherwise known statements, events, or conditions; reasonable: *Rain was a logical expectation in April*. 3. Reasoning or capable of reasoning in a clear and consistent manner. — **log'i-cal'i-ty** (-kəl'i-tē), **log'i-cal-ness n.** — **log'i-cal-ly adv.**

logical positivism *n.* A philosophy asserting that in assessing truth observation has primacy and that metaphysical and subjective arguments not based on it are meaningless.

logic circuit *n.* **Comp. Sci.** A computer switching circuit that performs problem-solving functions.

lo-gi-cian (lə'jɪʃ-ən) *n.* 1. A practitioner of a system of logic. 2. A student or scholar of logic.

logic operator *n.* **Comp. Sci.** A program instruction, such as OR, in which the quantity being operated on and the result of the operation each can have one of two values.

lo-gi-on (lə'gē-ŏn') *n., pl. -gi-a* (-gē-ə). A supposed saying of Jesus not recorded in the Gospels. [Gk., oracle < *legein*, to speak. See *leg-**.]

lo-gis-tic (lə'jɪs'tɪk) also **lo-gis-ti-cal** (-tɪ-kəl) *adj.* 1. Of or relating to symbolic logic. 2. Of or relating to logistics. [Med. Lat. *logisticus*, of calculation < Gk. *logistikos*, skilled in calculating < *logistēs*, calculator < *logizesthai*, to calculate < *logos*, reckoning, reason. See *leg-**.] — **lo-gis'ti-cal-ly adv.** — **lo-gis'ti-cian** (-jɪ-stɪʃ-ən) *n.*

lo-gis-tics (lə'jɪs'tɪks, lə-) *n.* (used with a *sing.* or *pl. v.*) 1. The branch of military operations that deals with the procurement, distribution, maintenance, and replacement of materiel and personnel. 2. The management of the details of an operation. [Fr. *logistiques* < *logistique*, logic < Med.Lat. *logisticus*, of calculation. See *LOGISTIC*.]

log-jam (lɒg'jæm', lɒg'ə-) *n.* 1. An immovable mass of floating logs crowded together. 2. A deadlock, as in talks; an impasse.

lo-go (lə'gɔ) *n., pl. -gos.* A name, symbol, or trademark designed for easy recognition, esp. one borne on a single printing plate or piece of type. [Short for LOGOGRAM and LOGOTYPE.]

LO-GO (lə'gɔ) *n.* **Comp. Sci.** A programming language developed for teaching young children. [Alteration of Gk. *logos*, word. See *Locos*.]

logo- or **log-** *pref.* Word; speech: *logogram*. [Gk. < *logos*, word, speech. See *leg-**.]

log-o-gram (lə'gɔ-græm', lɒg'ə-) *n.* A written symbol representing a word without expressing its pronunciation; for example, for 4 read "four." — **log'o-gram-mat'ic** (-græm-ət'ɪk) *adj.* — **log'o-gram-mat'i-cal-ly adv.**

log-o-graph (lə'gɔ-græf', lɒg'ə-) *n.* See *logogram*. — **log'o-graph'ic adj.** — **log'o-graph'i-cal-ly adv.**

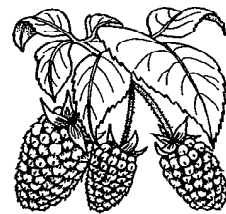
lo-gog-ra-phy (lə'gɔg'ræ-fē) *n.* The use of logotypes in design and printing.

log-o-griph (lə'gɔ-grɪf', lɒg'ə-) *n.* **Games.** A word puzzle, such as an anagram or one in which clues are given in a set of verses. [LOGO- + Gk. *griphos*, fishing basket, riddle.]

lo-gom-a-chy (lə'gɔm'ə-kē) *n., pl. -chies.* 1. A dispute about words. 2. A dispute carried on in words only; a battle of words. [Gk. *logomakhia* < *logomakhēin*, to fight about words: *logo-*, *logo-* + *makhē*, battle.]

log-or-rhe-a (lə'gɔ-rē-ə, lɒg'ə-) *n.* Excessive use of words.

Lo-gos (lə'gɔs', lɒg'ɔs') *n.* 1. **Philos.** **a.** In pre-Socratic phi-



loganberry
Rubus ursinus
var. *loganobaccus*

ă pat	oi boy
ā pay	ou out
ār care	oo took
ā father	oo boot
ē pet	ū cut
e be	ūr urge
ī pit	th thin
ī pie	th this
īr pier	hw which
ō pot	zh vision
ō toe	ə about,
ō paw	item

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Rugby shirt

having stiff pointed tail feathers and in the male brownish-red upper plumage and a black-and-white head.

rude (rōd) *adj.* **rud·er**, **rud·est**. **1.** Relatively undeveloped; primitive. **2.a.** Being in a rough unfinished condition. **b.** Exhibiting a marked lack of skill or precision in work. **c.** In a natural raw state: *bales of rude cotton*. **3.a.** Lacking the graces and refinement of civilized life; uncouth. **b.** Lacking education or knowledge; unlearned. **c.** Ill-mannered; discourteous: *rude behavior*. **4.** Vigorous, robust, and sturdy. **5.** Abruptly and unpleasantly forceful: *a rude shock*. [ME < OFr. < Lat. *rudis*.] — **rude/ly adv.** — **rude/ness n.**

ru·der·al (rōō' dər-əl) *Bot.* — *adj.* Growing in rubbish, poor land, or waste. — *n.* A ruderal plant. [NLat. *ruderalis* < Lat. *rudus*, *ruder*, rubbish.]

ru·di·ment (rōō' dē-mənt) *n.* **1.** A fundamental element, principle, or skill, as of a field of learning. Often used in the plural. **2.** Something in an incipient or undeveloped form. Often used in the plural. **3. Biol.** An imperfectly or incompletely developed organ or part. [Lat. *rudimentum* < *rudis*, rough, unformed.] — **ru'di·men'tal** (-mən'tl) *adj.*

ru·di·men·ta·ry (rōō' dē-mən'ta-rē, -mən'trē) *adj.* **1.** Of or relating to basic facts or principles; elementary. **2.** Being in the earliest stages of development; incipient. **3. Biol.** Imperfectly or incompletely developed; embryonic. — **ru'di·men'tar'i·ly** (-tār'ē-lē) *adv.* — **ru'di·men'ta·ri·ness n.**

Ru·dolf I (rōō' dōlf), 1218–91. Holy Roman emperor (1273–91) and founder of the Hapsburg dynasty.

Rudolf, Lake. See *Lake Turkana*.

Ru·dolp (rōō' dōlf), **Wilma Glödean**, 1940–94. Amer. athlete who won three gold medals in track at the 1960 Olympics.

rue¹ (rōō) *v.* **rue**d, **ru·ing**, **rues**. — *tr.* To feel regret, remorse, or sorrow for. — *intr.* To feel regret, remorse, or sorrow. — *n.* Sorrow; regret. [ME *ruen* < OE *hræowan*, to affect with grief, and *hræowan*, to repent.] — **ru'er n.**

rue² (rōō) *n.* Any of various aromatic southwest Asian or Mediterranean plants of the genus *Ruta*, esp. the ornamental *R. graveolens* having bipinnately compound leaves that yield an acrid volatile oil formerly used in medicine. [ME < OFr. < Lat. *rūta*, prob. < Gk. *rūtē*.]

rue anemone n. A small North American woodland plant (*Anemone thalictroides*) having white or pinkish apetalous flowers grouped in umbels.

rue·ful (rōō' fəl) *adj.* **1.** Inspiring pity or compassion. **2.** Causing, feeling, or expressing sorrow or regret. — **rue/ful·ly adv.** — **rue/ful·ness n.**

ru·fes·cent (rōō-fēs'ənt) *adj.* Tinged with red. [Lat. *rufescens*, *rufescere*, pr.prt. of *rufescere*, to become red < *rufus*, red, reddish. See *reudh-*.] — **ru·fes'cence n.**

ruff¹ (rūf) *n.* **1.** A stiffly starched frilled or pleated circular collar of fine fabric, worn in the 16th and 17th centuries. **2.** A distinctive collarlike projection around the neck, as of feathers on a bird. **3. A Eurasian sandpiper (*Philomachus pugnax*), the male of which has collarlike erectile feathers around the neck during the breeding season. [Perh. short for *RUFFLE*.] — **ruffed adj.****

ruff² (rūf) *Games.* — *n.* **1.** The playing of a trump card when one cannot follow suit. **2.** An old game resembling whist. — *tr.* & *intr.v.* **ruffed**, **ruff·ing**, **ruffs**. To trump or play a trump. [Obsolete Fr. *ronfle*, *roffle*, a kind of card game < OFr. *ronfle* < *renfler*, to rise: *re-*, *re-* + *enfler*, to cause to swell (< Lat. *inflāre*; see *INFLATE*).]

ruff³ (rūf) *n.* A small European freshwater fish (*Acerina cernua*) related to the perch. [ME *ruffe*, prob. < Med.Lat. *rufus*, a kind of fish.]

ruffed grouse (rūft) *n.* A chickenlike North American game bird (*Bonasa umbellus*) with mottled brownish plumage, the male of which makes drumming sounds with its wings.

ruf·fi·an (rūf'ē-ən, rūf'yən) *n.* **1.** A tough or rowdy man. **2.** A thug or gangster. [Fr., pimp < OFr. *rufien* < OProv. *rufian* < OItal. *ruffiano*.] — **ruf'fi·an·ism n.** — **ruf'fi·an·ly adv.**

ruf·fle¹ (rūf'əl) *n.* **1.** A strip of frilled or closely pleated fabric used for trimming or decoration. **2.** A ruff on a bird. **3.a.** A ruckus or fray. **b.** Annoyance; vexation. **4.** An irregularity or a slight disturbance of a surface. — *v.* **-fled**, **-fling**, **-fles**. — *tr.* **1.** To disturb the smoothness or regularity of; ripple. **2.** To pleat or gather (fabric) into a ruffle. **3.** To erect (the feathers). Used of birds. **4.** To discompose; fluster. **5.** To flip through (the pages of a book). **6. Games.** To shuffle (cards). — *intr.* **1.** To become irregular or rough. **2.** To fluster. **3.** To become flustered. [< ME *ruffelen*, to roughen.]

ruf·fle² (rūf'əl) *Mus.* — *n.* A low continuous beating of a drum that is not as loud as a roll. — *tr.v.* **-fled**, **-fling**, **-fles**. To beat a ruffle on (a drum). [Perh. < freq. of *ruff*, a drum roll, perh. of imit. orig.]

ruf·fle³ (rūf'əl) *intr.v.* **-fled**, **-fling**, **-fles**. To behave arrogantly or roughly; swagger. [ME *ruffelen*, to quarrel.] — **ruf'fler n.**

ru·fi·yaa (rōō' fē-yā') *n.* See *table at currency*. [Hindi *rupayā*, *rupiyā* < *rūpyam*, silver coin. See *RUPÉE*.]

ru·fous (rōō' fəs) *adj. Color.* Strong yellowish pink to moderate orange; reddish. [< Lat. *rufus*, red. See *reudh-*.]

rug (rūg) *n.* **1.** A heavy fabric used to cover a floor. **2.** An

animal skin used as a floor covering. **3. Chiefly British.** A piece of thick warm fabric or fur used as a coverlet or lap robe. **4. Slang.** A toupee. [Of Scand. orig.]

ru·ga (rōō' gə) *n., pl. -gae* (-gē', -gī'). *Biol.* A fold, crease, or wrinkle, as in the lining of the stomach. Often used in the plural. [Lat. *rūga*.] — **ru'gate'** (-gāt') *adj.*

Rug·by¹ (rūg'bē) *n.* A municipal borough of central England ESE of Birmingham; site of Rugby School where the game of Rugby was developed in the 19th cent. Pop. 59,564.

Rug·by² (rūg'bē) *n. Sports.* A form of football in which players of two competing teams may kick, dribble, or run with the ball but not make a forward pass. [After *Rugby School*, England.]

Rugby shirt n. A knit pullover shirt typically having long sleeves, a front button closure, and bold horizontal stripes.

Rū·gen (rōō' gən, rū'-). An island of NE Germany in the Baltic Sea, separated from the mainland by a narrow channel.

rug·ged (rūg'id) *adj.* **1.** Having a rough irregular surface. **2.** Having strong features marked with furrows or wrinkles. **3.** Having a sturdy build or strong constitution. **4.** Temperamentous; stormy. **5.** Demanding great effort, ability, or endurance: *rugged living conditions*. **6.** Lacking culture or polish; coarse and rude: *rugged manners*. [ME, shaggy, of Scand. orig.] — **rug'ged·ly adv.** — **rug'ged·ness n.**

rug·ger (rūg'ər) *n. Chiefly British.* Rugby.

ru·gose (rōō' gōs') also **ru·gous** (-gəs) *adj.* **1.** Having many wrinkles or creases; ridged or wrinkled. **2. Bot.** Having a rough wrinkled surface. [Lat. *rūgōsus* < *rūga*, wrinkle.] — **ru'gose'ly adv.** — **ru·gous'i·ty** (-gōs'i-tē) *n.*

Ruhr (rōōr). A region of NW Germany along and N of the Ruhr River, which flows c. 233 km (145 mi) W to the Rhine R.

ru·in (rū'in) *n.* **1.** Total destruction or disintegration, either physical, moral, social, or economic. **2.** A cause of total destruction. **3.a.** The act of destroying totally. **b.** A destroyed person, object, or building. **4.** The remains of something destroyed, disintegrated, or decayed. Often used in the plural: *the ruins of ancient Greece*. — *v.* **-ined**, **-in·ing**, **-ins**. — *tr.* **1.** To destroy completely; demolish. **2.** To harm irreparably. **3.** To reduce to poverty or bankruptcy. **4.** To deprive of chastity. — *intr.* To fall into ruin. [ME *ruine* < OFr. < Lat. *ruina* < *ruere*, to rush, collapse.] — **ru'in·a·ble adj.** — **ru'in·er n.**

Syns: *ruin, raze, demolish, destroy, wreck.* These verbs mean to injure and deprive something — or, less often, someone — of usefulness, soundness, or value. *Ruin* usually implies irretrievable harm but not necessarily total destruction: "You will ruin no more lives as you ruined mine" (Arthur Conan Doyle). *Raze, demolish, and destroy* can all imply reduction to ruins or even complete obliteration: *Enemy forces razed the city. The prosecutor demolished the opposition's argument. I saw the best minds of my generation destroyed by madness* (Allen Ginsberg). *To wreck* is to ruin in or as if in a violent collision: "The Boers had just wrecked a British military train" (Arnold Bennett). When *wreck* is used in referring to the ruin of a person or his or her hopes or reputation, it implies irreparable shattering: "Coleridge, poet and philosopher wrecked in a mist of opium" (Matthew Arnold).

ru·in·ate (rōō' a-nāt') *adj.* Having been ruined. [Med.Lat. *ruinatus* < Lat. *ruina*, ruin. See *RUIN*.]

ru·in·a·tion (rōō' a-nā'shən) *n.* **1.** The act of ruining or the condition of being ruined. **2.** A cause of ruin.

ru·in·ous (rōō' ə-nəs) *adj.* **1.** Causing or apt to cause ruin; destructive. **2.** Falling to ruin; dilapidated or decayed. — **ru'in·ous·ly adv.** — **ru'in·ous·ness n.**

Ruis·dael or **Ruys·dael** (riz'dāl', ris', rois'), **Jacob van**, 1628?–82. Dutch landscape painter whose baroque works include *Windmill at Wijk* (c. 1665).

Ru·key·ser (rōō' kī-zər), **Muriel**, 1913–80. Amer. writer whose collections of poetry include *The Gates* (1976).

rule (rōōl) *n.* **1.a.** Governing power or its possession or use; authority. **b.** The duration of such power. **2.a.** An authoritative prescribed direction for conduct. **b.** The body of regulations prescribed by the founder of a religious order for governing the conduct of its members. **3.** A usual, customary, or generalized course of action or behavior. **4.** A generalized statement that describes what is true in most or all cases. **5. Math.** A standard method or procedure for solving a class of problems. **6. Law.** **a.** A court order limited in application to a specific case. **b.** A subordinate regulation governing a particular matter. **7.** See *ruled*. **8. Print.** A thin metal strip of various widths and designs, used to print borders or lines as between columns. — *v.* **-ruled**, **ru·ing**, **rules**. — *tr.* **1.** To exercise control, dominion, or direction over; govern. **2.** To dominate by powerful influence. **3.** To decide or declare authoritatively or judicially; decree. See *Syns at decide*. **4.a.** To mark with straight parallel lines. **b.** To mark (a straight line) as with a ruler. — *intr.* **1.** To be in total control or command; exercise supreme authority. **2.** To formulate and issue a decree or decision. **3.** To prevail at a particular level or rate. — **phrasal verb.** **rule out.** **1.** To prevent; preclude. **2.** To remove from consideration; exclude. — **idiom.** as a **rule**, in general; for the most part. [ME *reule* < OFr. < VLat. *regula* < Lat. *rēgula*, rod, principle. See *reg-*.] — **ru'l·a·ble adj.**