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blast off. To commence flight; take off. Used of rockets or space vehicles.

blast-off (blăst'ôf', blăst'-) *n.* Also **blast-off.** *Aerospace.* The launching of a rocket or space vehicle.

blas-to-gen-e-sis (blăs'tô-jên'i-sis) *n.* *Biology.* 1. The theory that inherited characteristics are transmitted from parent to offspring by germ plasm. 2. Reproduction by budding. —**blas-to-gen-ic**, **blas-to-gen'ic** *adj.*

blas-to-mere (blăs'tô-mîr') *n.* A cell formed during the cleavage of a fertilized ovum. [BLASTO- + -MERE.] —**blas-to-mer'ic** *adj.*

blas-to-pore (blăs'tô-pôr', -pôr') *n.* The mouthlike opening into the primitive intestinal cavity of the gastrula. [BLASTO- + PORE (orifice).] —**blas-to-por'al** (-pôr'al, -pôr'al) *adj.*

blas-tu-la (blăs'chô-lă) *n.* *pl.* -las or -lae (-lê'). An early embryonic form, consisting essentially of a hollow cellular sphere. Also called "blastosphere." [New Latin, from Greek *blastos*, bud, germ. See *melôdh-* in Appendix.*] —**blas-tu-lar** (-lăr) *adj.* —**blas-tu-la'tion** (-lă'shôn) *n.*

blat (blăt) *v.* **blatted**, **blatting**, **blats**. —*tr.* *Informal.* To blurt out or blab. —*intr.* To bleat or baa, as a sheep. [Imitative.]

bla-tant (blă'tănt) *adj.* 1. Unpleasantly loud and noisy. 2. Offensively conspicuous; obtrusive; obvious: *blatant lie*. 3. *Rare.* Bellowing. Said of animals. —See *Synonyms* at *vociferous*. [First used by Spenser ("the blatant beast," a symbol of calumny), probably from Latin *blatire*, to blab, gossip. See *blat-* in Appendix.*] —**bla-tan-cy** *n.* —**bla'tant-ly** *adv.*

Usage: *Blatant* and *flagrant* are often confused. *Blatant* stresses offensiveness and obtrusiveness, primarily from the standpoint of noise and bluster. *Flagrant* emphasizes wrong or evil that is glaring or notorious. Therefore, one who blunders is guilty of a *blatant* (not *flagrant*) error; one who willfully violates a pledge commits a *flagrant* act.

blath'er (blăth'ər) *v.* -erəd, -erîng, -ers. Also **bleth'er** (blêth'ər). —*intr.* To talk nonsense; babble. —*tr.* To speak foolishly or nonsensically. —*n.* Also **bleth'er.** Absurd or foolish talk; nonsense. [Middle English *blether*, from Old Norse *bladhra*, to prattle, akin to *bladhra*, bladder. See *bhlē-* in Appendix.*] —**blath'er-er** *n.*

blath'er-skite (blăth'ər-skî't') *n.* 1. A babbling, foolish person. 2. Absurd and foolish talk. [Earlier *bletherskate*: BLATHER + SKATE (fish).]

blaze (blăz) *n.* 1. A brilliant burst of fire; a flame. 2. Any bright, hot, steady light or glare. 3. A destructive fire, especially one that spreads rapidly. 4. A sudden outburst, as of emotion or activity. 5. *Plural.* *Slang.* Hell. Used as a euphemism. —*v.* **blazed**, **blazing**, **blazes**. —*intr.* 1. To burn with a bright flame. 2. To shine brightly. 3. To be deeply excited, as by emotion. 4. To shoot rapidly and continuously. Usually used with *away*. —*tr.* 1. *Rare.* To cause to burn. 2. To shine or be resplendent with: *Her eyes blazed fire*. [Middle English *blaze*, Old English *blæze*, torch, bright fire. See *bhel-* in Appendix.*] —**blaz'ing-ly** *adv.*

Synonyms: *blaze*, *flame*, *flare*, *flash*, *glare*, *incandescence*, *glow*. These nouns relate to the visible signs of combustion, especially to a brightly burning light. *Blaze* primarily stresses intensity and magnitude of combustion and especially implies vivid illumination. *Flame* more narrowly pertains to a jet or tongue of fire. *Flare* applies to a sudden, brief, intensely brilliant but unsteady burst of light, and *flash* to an even shorter burst. *Glare* emphasizes continuing intensity of blinding light. *Incandescence* suggests the intense brilliance of something white-hot. *Glow* primarily stresses light, often in the absence of visible flame; it particularly suggests steadiness of radiation and absence of intense brilliance.

blaze (blăz) *n.* 1. A white or light-colored spot on the face of a horse or other animal. 2. A mark cut on a tree to indicate a trail. —*tr.* **blazed**, **blazing**, **blazes**. 1. To mark (a tree) by cutting the bark. 2. To indicate (a trail) by marking trees in this manner. [Probably from Middle Low German *bles*. See *bhel-* in Appendix.*]

blaz'er (blă'zər) *n.* 1. One that blazes. 2. A lightweight, informal sport jacket, often striped or brightly colored.

blazing star. 1. A North American plant, *Chamaelirium luteum*, having a long cluster of small white flowers. Also called "devil's bit." 2. Any of various North American plants of the genus *Liatriis*, having clusters of tuftlike purple or pinkish flowers. Also called "button snakeroot." 3. A plant, *Mentzelia laevicaulis*, of western North America, having large, pale-yellow flowers.

bla-zon (blă'zôn) *tr.* **v.** -zoned, -zoning, -zons. 1. To describe (a coat of arms) in proper heraldic terms. 2. To paint or depict (a coat of arms) with accurate heraldic detail. 3. To adorn or embellish with or as if with blazons: "the stars and moons and suns blazoned on that sacred wall" (G.K. Chesterton). 4. To announce; proclaim. Often used with *abroad*. —*n.* 1. A coat of arms. 2. The heraldic description or representation of a coat of arms. 3. An ostentatious or showy display. [From Middle English *blasoun*, shield, coat of arms, from Old French *blasont*.] —**bla'zon-er** *n.* —**bla'zon-ment** *n.*

bla-zon-ry (blă'zôn-rē) *n.* *pl.* -ries. 1. The art of properly and accurately describing or representing armorial bearings. 2. A coat of arms. 3. Any showy or brilliant display.

bid. boldface.

bidg. building.

bleach (blêch) *v.* **bleached**, **bleaching**, **bleaches**. —*tr.* 1. To remove the color from by means of sunlight, chemical agents, or the like. 2. To make white or colorless. —*intr.* To become white or colorless. —*n.* 1. Any chemical agent used for bleaching, by either oxidation or reduction. 2. The degree of bleach-

ing obtained. 3. The act of bleaching. [Middle English *blechen*, Old English *blæcan*. See *bhel-* in Appendix.*]

bleach'er (blê'chər) *n.* 1. One that bleaches. 2. *Usually plural.* An unroofed outdoor grandstand for seating spectators. [Sense 2, from the bleaching effect of exposure to sun.]

bleaching powder. Any powder, such as chlorinated lime or calcium hypochlorite, used in solution as a bleach.

bleak (blêk) *adj.* **bleaker**, **bleakest**. 1. Exposed to the elements; unsheltered; barren. 2. Cold and cutting; harsh. 3. *Chieflly Regional.* Pale and wan; sickly; ashen. 4. Gloomy and somber; depressing; dreary: "Life in the Aran Islands has always been bleak and difficult." (John M. Synge). [Middle English *bleke*, pale, from Old Norse *bleikr*, shining, white. See *bhel-* in Appendix.*] —**bleak'ly** *adv.* —**bleak'ness** *n.*

bleak (blêk) *n.* A European freshwater fish of the genus *Alburnus*, having silvery scales used in the manufacture of artificial pearls. [Middle English *bleke*, probably from Old Norse *bleikja*, "white color." See *bhel-* in Appendix.*]

bleak (blîr) *tr.* **v.** **bleared**, **blearing**, **blears**. 1. To blur (the eyes) with or as with tears. 2. To blur; dim. —*adj.* **bleary**. [Middle English *bleren*, probably of Low German origin, akin to Low German *blerr-t* (in *blerr-oged*, bleary-eyed).]

blear-y (blîr'ē) *adj.* -ier, -iest. 1. Blurred or dimmed by or as by tears. Said of the eyes. 2. Vague or indistinct; blurred. 3. Exhausted; worn-out. —**blear'y-ly** *adv.* —**blear'y-ness** *n.*

blear-y-eyed (blîr'ē-id') *adj.* Also **blear-eyed** (blîr'id'). 1. With eyes blurred by or as by tears. 2. Dull of mind or perception. **bleat** (blê't) *v.* **bleated**, **bleating**, **bleats**. —*intr.* 1. To utter the cry of a calf, goat, or sheep. 2. To utter any similar sound, especially a whine. —*tr.* To utter in a whining voice. —*n.* 1. The characteristic cry of a goat, sheep, or calf. 2. Any similar sound, as a whining cry. [Middle English *bleten*, Old English *blētan*. See *bhlē-* in Appendix.*] —**bleat'er** *n.*

bleb (blêb) *n.* 1. A small blister or pustule. Compare *bull*. 2. An air bubble. [Perhaps variant of *blob*.] —**bleb'by** *adj.*

bleed (blêd) *v.* **bled** (blêd), **bleeding**, **bleeds**. —*intr.* 1. To lose or emit blood. 2. To suffer loss of blood, as a casualty in battle. 3. To feel sympathetic grief or anguish: *My heart bleeds for you*. 4. To exude sap or similar fluid, as a bruised plant does. 5. *Slang.* To pay out money, especially an exorbitant amount. 6. To become mixed or run, as dyes in wet cloth or paper. 7. To show through a layer of paint, as a stain or resin in wood. 8. *Printing.* To be printed so as to go over the edge or edges of a page, either purposely or by trimming the margins too closely. Often used with *off*. —*tr.* 1. **a.** To take blood from, either surgically or with leeches. **b.** To extract sap or juice from. 2. To exude (blood or sap, for example). 3. **a.** To draw liquid or gaseous contents from; to drain. **b.** To draw off (liquid or gaseous matter) from a container. 4. *Slang.* To obtain money from, especially by improper means. 5. *Printing.* **a.** To print (an illustration, for example) so that it will go over the edge or edges of a page. **b.** To trim (a page or sheet, for example) too closely so as to mutilate the printed or illustrative matter. —*n.*

Printing. 1. Illustrative matter that purposely bleeds. 2. A page trimmed so as to bleed. Also called "bled page." 3. The part thus trimmed off. [Bleed, bled, bled; Middle English *bleden*, *bledde*, *bledde*, Old English *blēdan*, *blēdde*, *blēdd*, from Common Germanic *blōthjan* (unattested), from *blōtham* (unattested), *BLOOD*.]

bleed'er (blê'dər) *n.* 1. A hemophilic (see). 2. A bloodletter. **bleed-ing-heart** (blê'dîng-hărt') *n.* 1. Any of several plants of the genus *Dicentra*, having nodding, pink flowers; especially, the widely cultivated species *D. spectabilis*, native to Japan. 2. A person who is considered excessively sympathetic toward those who claim to be underprivileged or exploited.

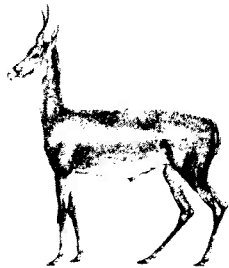
blem-ish (blêm'ish) *tr.* **v.** -ished, -ishing, -ishes. To impair or spoil by a flaw; mar. —*n.* A flaw or defect; a stain; disfigurement. [Middle English *blemishen*, from Old French *blemir*, *blesmir* (present stem *blemiss-*), to make pale, from Germanic. See *bhel-* in Appendix.*] —**blem'ish-er** *n.*

Synonyms: *blemish*, *imperfection*, *fault*, *defect*, *flaw*. All of these denote loss or absence of perfection. *Blemish* applies to some manifest characteristic that is held to mar the appearance or character of a thing, whereas *imperfection* and *fault* apply more comprehensively to any deficiency or shortcoming in make-up. *Defect* denotes serious functional or structural shortcoming; *flaw* refers to a small but fundamental weakness or dislocation, such as a fissure in a gem.

blench (blêntch) *tr.* **v.** **blenched**, **blenching**, **blenches**. To draw back or shy away, as from fear; to quail; flinch. See *Synonyms* at *recoil*. [Middle English *blenchen*, to deceive, start aside, evade, Old English *blencan*, to deceive. See *bhel-* in Appendix.*] —**blench'er** *n.*

blench². Variant of *blanch*.

blend (blênd) *v.* **blended** or **blent** (blênt), **blending**, **blends**. —*tr.* 1. To combine or mix so as to render the constituent parts indistinguishable from one another. 2. To mix (different varieties or grades) so as to obtain a new mixture of some particular quality or consistency. —*intr.* 1. To form a uniform mixture; intermingle: "The smoke blended easily into the odor of the other fumes." (Norman Mailer). 2. To become merged into one, unite: "Evil dreams and evil waking were blended into a long tunnel of misery" (J.R.R. Tolkien). 3. To pass imperceptibly into one another; harmonize: "standing motionless beside that door, as though trying to make myself blend with the dark wood." (Faulkner). —See *Synonyms* at *mix*. —*n.* 1. That which is blended; a mixture. 2. The act of blending. 3. *Linguistics.* A word produced by combining parts of other words, such as *smog*, from *smoke* and *fog*; portmanteau word. —See *Syno-*



blesbok



bleeding-heart
Dicentra spectabilis

ă pat/â pay/ăr care/ă father/b bib/ch church/d deed/ē pet/ē be/f fife/g gag/h hat/hw which/i pit/i pie/îr pier/j judge/k kick/l lid, need/m mum/n no, sudden/ng thing/ô pot/ô toe/ô paw, for/oi noise/ou out/ôo took/ôo boot/p pop/r roar/s sauce/sh ship, dish/

mas-ti-cate (mäs'tä-kät') *tr. v.* -cated, -cating, -cates. 1. To chew. 2. To grind and knead. [Late Latin *masticare*, from Greek *mastikhän*, to grind the teeth. See *menth-* in Appendix.*] —**mas-ti-ca'tion** *n.* —**mas-ti-ca'tor** (-kä'tär) *n.*

mas-ti-ca-to-ry (mäs'ti-kä-tör'é, -tör'é) *adj.* 1. Of, pertaining to, or used in mastication. 2. Being adapted for chewing. —*n., pl. masticatories.* A substance chewed to increase salivation. **mastic tree.** 1. A small evergreen tree, *Pistacia lentiscus*, of the Mediterranean region. It yields a resin, *mastic* (*see*). Also called "lentisk." 2. See *pepper tree*.

mas-tiff (mäs'tif) *n.* A large dog of an ancient breed, probably originating in Asia, having a short fawn-colored coat. [Middle English *mastif*, from Old French *mastin*, from Vulgar Latin *mansuetinus* (unattested), "tame," from Latin *mansuetus*, tamed, "accustomed to the hand"; *manus*, hand (see *man-* in Appendix*) + *suescere*, to accustom (see *sau-* in Appendix*).] **mastiff bat.** Any of various bats of the family Molossidae, found in the tropics, having narrow wings and brown, gray, or black fur. [From the superficially doglike ears.]

mas-ti-goph-o-ran (mäs'ti-göf'ä-rän) *n.* Also **mas-tig-o-phore** (mäs-tig'ä-för', -för'). Any member of the class Mastigophora, which includes protozoans with one or more flagella. [From New Latin *Mastigophora*, "whip bearers"; Greek *mastix*† (stem *mastig-*), whip, lash + *-phora* (neuter plural), -PHORE.] —**mas-ti-goph'o-ran** *adj.*

mas-ti-tis (mäs-ti'tis) *n.* Inflammation of the breast or udder. [MAST(O) + -ITIS.]

masto-, **mast-**. Indicates the breast or protuberances resembling a breast or nipple; for example, *mastitis*. [New Latin, from Greek *mastos*, breast.]

mas-to-don (mäs'tä-dön') *n.* Any of several extinct mammals of the genus *Mammot* (sometimes called *Mastodon*), resembling the elephant. [New Latin, "breast-tooth"; MAST(O) + -ODON; from the nipple-shaped protuberances on the teeth.]

mas-to-dont (mäs'tä-dönt') *adj.* 1. Having teeth like those of a mastodon. 2. Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of mastodons.

mas-toid (mäs'toid') *n.* 1. The **mastoid process** (*see*). 2. **Mastoiditis** (*see*). Not used technically. —*adj.* 1. Pertaining to the mastoid process. 2. Shaped like a breast or nipple. [New Latin *mastoides*, "breast-shaped"; MAST(O) + -OID.]

mas-toid-ec-to-my (mäs'toid-ék'tä-më) *n., pl. -mies. Surgery.* Removal of part or all of the mastoid process.

mas-toid-i-tis (mäs'toid-i'tis) *n. Pathology.* Inflammation of part or all of the mastoid process.

mastoid process. *Anatomy.* The rear portion of the temporal bone on each side of the head behind the ear in man and many other vertebrates. Also called "mastoid," "mastoid bone."

mas-tur-bate (mäs'tär-bät') *v.* -bated, -bating, -bates. —*intr.* To perform an act of masturbation. —*tr.* To perform an act of masturbation on. [Latin *masturbärit*.]

mas-tur-ba-tion (mäs'tär-bä'shan) *n.* Excitation of the genital organs, usually to orgasm, by means other than sexual intercourse. —**mas-tur-ba'tion-al**, **mas-tur-ba-to-ry** (mäs'tär-bä-tör'é, -tör'é) *adj.* —**mas-tur-bä'tor** (-bä'tär) *n.*

Ma-su-ri-a (mä-zöör'é-ä, -söör'é-ä). *German Ma-su-ren* (mä-zöör'an). *Polish Ma-zu-ry* (mä-zöör'é). A region in northeastern Poland, dotted with numerous lakes. —**Ma-su-ri-an** *adj.*

mat (mät) *n.* 1. A flat piece of fabric or other material used for wiping one's shoes or feet, or in various other forms as a floor covering. 2. A small, flat piece of decorated material placed under a lamp, dish of food, or other object. 3. A floor pad to protect athletes, as in wrestling or gymnastics. 4. Any densely woven or thickly tangled mass: *a mat of hair*. 5. The solid part of a lace design. 6. A heavy, woven net of rope or wire cable placed over a blasting site to keep debris from scattering. —*v.*

matted, **matting**, **mats**. —*tr.* 1. To cover, protect, or decorate with a mat or mats. 2. To interweave into or cover with a thick mass: *A heavy growth of vines matted the tree.* —*intr.* To be interwoven into a thick mass; become entangled. [Middle English *mat*, Old English *matt(-e)*, from Late Latin *matta*, mat, possibly from Phoenician (Punic) *matta*.]

mat² (mät) *n.* 1. A decorative border of cardboard or similar material placed around a picture to serve as a frame or act as a contrast between the picture and the frame. 2. Also **matte**. **a.** A dull, often rough, finish, as on glass, metal, or paper. **b.** A special tool for producing such a surface or finish. 3. **Printing** A type mold or an impression of type, **matrix** (*see*). —*tr. v.*

matted, **matting**, **mats**. 1. To put a mat around (a picture). 2. To produce a dull finish on. —*adj.* Also **matte**. Having a dull finish. [French *mat*, dull, from Old French, from Latin *mattus*, dull, vague, originally, drunk, probably variant of *maditus*, drunk, from *madere*, to be sodden, to be drunk. See *mad-* in Appendix.*]

mat. *matinee.*

M.A.T. Master of Arts in Teaching.

Mat-a-be-le (mät'ä-bë'lë) *n., pl. Matabela* or *-les*. 1. A Zulu tribe driven out of the Transvaal by the Boers in 1837. 2. A member of this tribe. 3. The Bantu language of the Matabele.

Mat-a-be-le-land (mät'ä-bë'lë-länd'). A region of Rhodesia inhabited by the Matabele people since 1837.

Ma-ta-di (mä-tä'dë). The most important port of Zaire, 100 miles from the mouth of the Congo River and 230 miles southwest of Kinshasa. Population, 110,000.

mat-a-dor (mät'ä-dör') *n.* 1. A bullfighter who performs the *faena* (*see*) and kills the bull. 2. One of the highest trumps in certain card games. [Spanish, "killer," from *matar*, to kill, from Old Spanish, from Latin *macläre*, to sacrifice, from *mactus*, sacred. See *meg-* in Appendix.*]

Ma-ta Ha-ri (mä'tä hä'rë). Original name, Gertrud Margarete

Zelle. 1876-1917. German spy in France during World War I.

Ma-ta-mo-ros (mät'ä-mör'äs, -mör'äs; *Spanish* mä'tä-mör'ös). A seaport of northeastern Mexico, near the mouth of the Rio Grande, opposite Brownsville, Texas. Population, 132,000.

Ma-tan-zas (mä-tän'zäs; *Spanish* mä-tän'säs). 1. A province of northern Cuba. Population, 361,000. 2. The capital of this province, on Matanzas Bay. Population, 83,000.

Mat-a-pan, Cape (mät'ä-pän'). *Greek Tai-na-ron* (tä'nä-rön'). The southern tip of mainland Greece.

match¹ (mäch) *n.* 1. **a.** A person or thing that is exactly like another; counterpart. **b.** A person or thing that is like another in one or more specified qualities: *He is John's match for bravery.* 2. **a.** A person or thing that closely resembles or harmonizes with another: *The napkins were a nice match for the tablecloth.* **b.** A pair made up of two things or persons that resemble or harmonize with each other: *The colors were a close match.* 3. A person or thing equal in qualities or able to compete with another of the same class or type: *The boxer had met his match.* 4. *Sports.* **a.** An athletic contest or game in which two or more persons, animals, or teams oppose and compete with each other: *a boxing match.* **b.** A race between horses belonging to two different owners who have set the terms and conditions of the race. **c.** A tennis contest decided on the basis of victory in a specified number of sets, usually two out of three or three out of five. 5. A marriage or an arrangement of marriage: *She had rejected several matches that had been made her.* (Goldsmith). 6. A person viewed as a prospective marriage partner. —*v.* **matched**, **matching**, **matches**. —*tr.* 1. **a.** To be exactly like; correspond exactly; equal. **b.** To be like with respect to specified qualities: *The markings on the stamps matched each other.* 2. To resemble or harmonize with: *The coat matches the dress.* 3. To adapt or suit so that a balanced or harmonious result is achieved; cause to correspond: *Let poets match their subject to their strength.* (Earl Roscommon). 4. To fit together or cause to fit together; especially, to cut (boards) with a tongue and groove. 5. To join or give in marriage. 6. To place in opposition or competition with; to pit: *The only way that power can be overcome is to match organization with organization.* (Ann D. Gordon). 7. To provide with an adversary or competitor. 8. To set in comparison; measure; compare: *beauty that could never be matched.* 9. To flip or toss (coins) and compare the sides that land face up. 10. To couple (electric circuits) by means of a transformer. —*intr.* To be a close counterpart; correspond. —See *Synonyms at rival*. [Middle English *macche*, match, mate, Old English *gemæcca*, mate. See *mag-* in Appendix.*] —**match'a-ble** *adj.* —**match'er** *n.*

match² (mäch) *n.* 1. A narrow strip of wood, cardboard, or wax coated on one end with a compound that ignites easily by friction. 2. An easily ignited cord or wick, formerly used for detonating powder charges or firing cannons and muzzle-loading firearms. [Middle English *macche*, *mecche*, lamp wick, candle, from Old French *meiche*, from Medieval Latin *myxa*, lamp wick, from Latin, nozzle of a lamp, from Greek *myxa*, lamp wick, originally, mucus. See *meug-* in Appendix.*]

match-board (mäch'börd', -börd') *n.* Also **matched board**. A board cut with a tongue on one side and a matching groove on the other to fit with other boards of identical cut.

match-book (mäch'bök') *n.* A small cardboard folder containing safety matches.

match-box (mäch'böks') *n.* A box for keeping matches.

match-less (mäch'lis) *adj.* Having no match or equal; peerless; unsurpassed: *"that small, matchless quarter of London where peace and dignity do still reign"* (Max Beerbohm). —**match-less-ly** *adv.* —**match'less-ness** *n.*

match-lock (mäch'lök') *n.* 1. A gunlock in which powder is ignited by a match. 2. A musket having such a gunlock.

match-mak-er (mäch'mä'kär) *n.* 1. One who habitually tries to arrange marriages. 2. One who arranges athletic competitions. —**match'mak'ing** *n. & adj.*

match play. *Golf.* A method of scoring the game by counting only the number of holes won by each side rather than the number of strokes taken. Compare *medal play*.

match point. The final point needed to win a sports match.

match-wood (mäch'wüd') *n.* 1. Wood in small pieces or splinters suitable especially for making matches. 2. Splinters: *The vessel was beaten to matchwood when it came ashore.*

mate¹ (mät) *n.* 1. One of a matched pair: *the mate to this glove.* 2. A spouse. 3. **a.** One of a conjugal pair of animals or birds. **b.** One of a pair of animals brought together for breeding. 4. A person with whom one is in close association. 5. A deck officer on a merchant ship ranking below the master. 6. *U.S. Navy.* A petty officer who is an assistant to the warrant officer. —*v.*

mated, **mating**, **mates**. —*tr.* 1. To join closely; pair; couple. 2. To unite in marriage. 3. To pair (animals) for breeding. —*intr.* 1. To become joined in marriage. 2. To become mated; breed. [Middle English, from Middle Low German *mate*, *gemate*, companion. See *mad-* in Appendix.*]

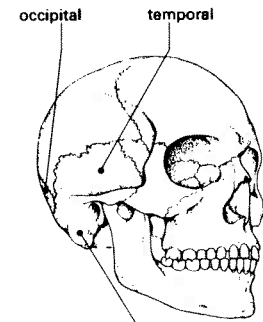
mate² (mät) *n.* *Chess.* A checkmate. —*v.* **mated**, **mating**, **mates.** *Chess.* —*tr.* To checkmate. —*intr.* To achieve a checkmate: *White mated in 20 moves.* [Middle English *mat*, from Old French, short for *eschec mat*, CHECKMATE.]

ma-té (mä'tä') *n.* 1. An evergreen tree, *Ilex paraguayensis*, of South America, where it is widely cultivated. 2. A mildly stimulant beverage, popular in South America, made from the dried leaves of this tree. Also called "Paraguay tea," "yerba maté." [American Spanish *maté*, alteration (influenced by *ié*, *te*) of *mate* (with initial stress), from Quechua.]

mat-e-lote (mät'ä-löt') *n.* Also **mat-e-lotte** (mät'ä-löt'). 1. A wine sauce for fish. 2. Fish stewed in such a sauce. [French



mastiff



mastoid process