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lower parts of a staircase railing at a landing. 4. the act of ramping. 5. a. BOARDING RAMP. b. APRON (def. 3). —v.t. 6. to rise or rear with arms or forelegs raised as if to spring. 7. (of a lion or other large quadruped represented on a coat of arms) to rise or stand on the hind legs. 8. to leap or dash with fury. 9. to act violently; rage; storm; to ramp and rage. —v.t. 10. to provide with a ramp. [1350-1400; (v.) ME < OF *rampier* to creep, crawl, climb, prob. < Gmc (cf. OHG *rampian* to bend, wrinkle, MD *ramp* cramp); (n.) < F *rampe*, der. of *rampier*] —**ramp/ing-ly**, *adv.*

ramp² (ramp), *n.* *Usu.*, **ramps**, a wild onion, *Allium tricoccum*, of the amaryllis family, of E North America, having flat leaves and rounded clusters of whitish flowers. [1530-40; back formation from *ramps* ramson, var. (with intrusive *p*) of *rams*, earlier *rammys*, orig. the sing. of RAMSON]

rampage (ram'paj; *v. also* ram'paj), *n.*, *v.*, **-paged**, **-pag-ing**. —*n.* 1. an eruption of violently uncontrolled, reckless, or destructive behavior. —*v.t.* 2. to rush or behave furiously or violently; storm; rage. [1705-15; orig. Scots; obscurely akin to RAMP'] —**ramp-pag'er**, *n.*

ram-pa-geous (ram'pajəs), *adj.* violent; unruly; boisterous. [1815-25] —**ram-pa-geous-ly**, *adv.* —**ram-pa-geous-ness**, *n.*

ramp-ant (ram'pənt), *adj.* 1. prevailing or unchecked; widespread; rife: a rampant rumor. 2. growing luxuriantly, as weeds. 3. violent in action or spirit; raging; furious. 4. (of an animal) standing on the hind legs; ramping. 5. (of a heraldic animal) a. having the body upraised on the left hind leg, the head in profile, and one foreleg above the other. b. rearing in profile upon the hind legs with the forelegs extended. 6. (of an arch or vault) springing at one side from one level of support and resting at the other on a higher level. [1350-1400; ME < OF, *prp.* of *rampier*; see RAMP'] —**ramp-ant-ly**, *adv.*

ramp-part (ram'pərt, -pərt), *n.*, *v.*, **-part-ed**, **-part-ing**. —*n.* 1. a mound of earth, rubble, or similar material raised around a place as a fortification. b. such a fortification together with a stone or earth parapet capping it. See *diag.* at *ASTON*. 2. anything serving as a bulwark or defense. —*v.t.* 3. to furnish with or as if with a rampart. [1575-85; < MF, der. of *rempaire* = *re-re-* + *emparer* to take possession of < Oc *amparar* < L *ante-* ANTE- + *parare* to prepare]

ram-pike (ram'pik), *n.* Chiefly Canadian, the upright, skeletal remains of a tree killed by fire. [1830-40; orig. uncert.]

ram-pion (ram'pion), *n.* a European bellflower, *Campanula rapunculus*, having an edible white tuberous root used in salad. [1565-75; prob. alter. of MF *ralponce* < It *rap(er)onzolo*, of uncert. orig.]

ram-rod (ram'rod), *n.*, *v.*, **-rod-ded**, **-rod-ding**. —*n.* 1. a rod for ramming down the charge of a muzzleloading firearm. 2. a cleaning rod for the barrel of a firearm. 3. a rigid, strict disciplinarian. 4. a boss. —*v.t.* 5. to exert discipline and authority on. 6. to direct or oversee. 7. to accomplish by force. 8. to strike with or as if with a ramrod. [1750-60]

Ram-say (ram'zē), *n.* 1. Allan, 1686-1758, Scottish poet. 2. George, Dalhousie, George Ramsay, Earl of. 3. James Andrew Broun, Dalhousie, James Andrew Broun Ramsay, 1st Marquis and 10th Earl of. 4. Sir William, 1852-1916, English chemist.

Ram-ses (ram'sēz) also **Rameses**, *n.* 1. the name of several kings of ancient Egypt. 2. Ramses II, King of ancient Egypt 1292-1225 B.C. 3. Ramses III, King of ancient Egypt 1198-1167 B.C.

Rams-gate (ram'zǝl; *Brit.* -gīt), *n.* a seaport in NE Kent, in SE England; resort. 39,482.

ram-shack-le (ram'shak'əl), *adj.* loosely made or held together; rickety; shaky; a ramshackle house. [1815-25; cf. earlier *rans(h)ackled*, obscurely akin to RANSACK] —**ram'shack-le-ness**, *n.*

ram-son (ram'zən, -sən), *n.* *Usu.*, **ramsons**, a garlic, *Allium ursinum*, having broad leaves and a bulbous root used as a relish. [bef. 1000; ME *ramsyn* (orig. pl., taken as sing.); OE *hramsan*, pl. of *hramsa* broad-leaved garlic; c. Gk *krómmyon* onion]

ram-u-lose (ram'yo lōs') also **ram-u-lous** (-ləs), *adj.* having many small branches. [1745-55; < L *rāmūlōsus* = *rāmūl(us)*, 'little branch, twig (*rām(us)* branch + *-ulus* (-ule) + *-ōsus* -ose'; see RAMUS)]

ram-us (rām'əs), *n.*, *pl.* -mi (-mī), a small branch, as of a stem, vein, or bone. [1795-1805; < L *rāmūs* branch, twig, bough; akin to *rādix* root']

ran (ran), *v.* *pl.* of RUN.

Ran-ca-gua (rāng'kǝwǝ), *n.* a city in central Chile. 172,489.

ranch (ranch), *n.*, *v.*, **ranch-ed**, **ranch-ing**. —*n.* 1. an establishment maintained for raising livestock under range conditions. 2. a farm or ranchlike enterprise that raises a single crop or animal: a fruit ranch; a milk ranch. 3. the persons working or living on a ranch. 4. RANCH HOUSE (def. 2). —*v.t.* 5. to own, manage, or work on a ranch. [1800-10, Amer.; < Sp *ranch*o RANCHO] —**ranch/less**, *adj.* —**ranch/like**, *adj.*

ranch-er (ranch'ə), *n.* a person who owns or works on a ranch. [1830-40, Amer.]

ran-che-ro (ran'chär'ə, rān-), *n.*, *pl.* **-che-ros**. (In Spanish America and the southwestern U.S.) a rancher. [1820-30; < Sp, = *ranch(o)* RANCH + *-ero* < L *-arius* -ARY]

ranch-ette (ran'chət'), *n.* 1. a house on a parcel of land large enough to permit the maintenance of a horse or small farm animals, as goats or sheep. 2. RANCH HOUSE (def. 2). [1955-60, Amer.]

ranch/ house, *n.* 1. the house of the owner of a ranch, usu. of one story and with a low-pitched roof. 2. any one-story house of the same general form, esp. one built in the suburbs. [1860-65; Amer.]

Ranch-i (rān'chē), *n.* a city in S Bihar, in E India. 501,000.

ranch-man (ranch'man), *n.*, *pl.* **-men**, a rancher. [1855-60, Amer.]

ranch/ mink, *n.* a semiaquatic mink, *Mustela vison*, raised commercially for its fur. [1950-55]

ran-cho (ran'chō, rān-), *n.*, *pl.* **-chos**. 1. a ranch. 2. a hut or collection of huts for herders, laborers, or travelers. [1800-10, Amer.; < AmerSp: small farm, camp (Sp: camp), *n.* der. of OSp *rancharse* to lodge, be billeted. < MF (se) *ranger* to be arranged, be installed; see RANGE]

Dir., **ran/cour**. [1115-1225; *Dir. ran/cour* < OF *ran/cour* < L *ran/cōre* (see RANCI) + *-or* -OR'] —**ran/cored**; *esp. Brit.* **ran/coured**, *adj.*

ran-corous (rang'kər əs), *adj.* full of or showing rancor. [1580-90] —**ran/cor-ous-ly**, *adv.* —**ran/cor-ous-ness**, *n.*

rand (rand), *n.*, *pl.* **rand**, the basic monetary unit of South Africa. See *table* at CURRENCY. [1960-65; < Afrika, after The RAND (Witwatersrand), major gold mining area]

Rand, The (rand), *n.* WITWATERSRAND.

R&B or **r&b** or **R and B**, rhythm-and-blues.

R&D or **R and D**, research and development.

Rand-ers (rā'nərz, -nərs), *n.* a seaport in E Jutland; in Denmark 61,155.

R. & I., 1. king and emperor. [< L *Rēx et Imperātor*] 2. queen and empress. [< L *Rēgina et Imperātrix*]

Ran-dolph (rand'ɒlf, -dɒlf), *n.* 1. A(s) Philip, 1889-1979, U.S. labor leader. 2. John, 1773-1833, U.S. statesman and author.

ran-dom (randəm), *adj.* 1. occurring or done without definite aim, reason, or pattern: *random examples*. 2. Statistics, of or characterizing a process of selection in which each item of a set has an equal probability of being chosen. 3. *Building Trades*, a. (of building materials) lacking uniformity of dimensions: *random shingles*. b. (of asphalt) laid without continuous courses. c. constructed or applied without regularity: *random bond*. —*adv.* 4. *Building Trades*, without uniformity: *random-size slates*. —*Idiom*. 5. at random, without regard to rules, schedules, etc.; haphazardly. [1275-1325; ME *randoun*, *random* < OF *randon*, der. of *randir* to gallop < Gmc] —**ran-dom-ly**, *adv.* —**ran-dom-ness**, *n.*

ran-dom access, *n.* a feature of a videodisc or compact disc player that allows the user to select and replay any portion without starting at the beginning. [1950-55]

ran-dom access, *adj.* designating an electronic storage medium that allows information to be stored and retrieved in arbitrary sequence

ran-dom access memory, *n.* See RAM.

ran-dom-ize (randəm'īz), *v.t.*, **-ized**, **-iz-ing**, to arrange, select, or distribute in a random manner. [1925-30] —**ran-dom-iza-tion**, *n.* —**ran-dom-iz'er**, *n.*

ran-dom num/ber, *n.* a number chosen by a random sampling, as from a table (ran-dom num/ber ta-ble) or generated by a computer. [1925-30]

ran-dom sam-pling, *n.* a method of selecting a sample (ran-dom sam-ple) from a statistical population in such a way that every possible sample that could be selected has a predetermined probability of being selected. [1895-1900]

ran-dom var-iable, *n.* a statistical quantity that can take any of the values of a specified set in accordance with an associated probability distribution. Also called *variate*. [1935-40]

ran-dom walk, *n.* the path of a point or quantity that moves a change in a stepwise manner, where the direction of each step is statistically random. [1900-05]

R and R or **R&R**, 1. rest and recreation. 2. rest and recuperation. 1. rest and relaxation. 4. rock and roll.

rand-y (rand'ē), *adj.*, **rand-i-er**, **rand-i-est**. 1. sexually aroused; lustful. 2. Chiefly Scot. rude and aggressive. [1690-1700; *rand* (obs. var. of RANT) + *-y*] —**rand-i-ness**, *n.*

ra-nee (rā'nē, rā'nē'), *n.* RANI.

rang (rang), *v.* *pt.* of RING.

range (rāng), *n.*, *adj.*, *v.*, **ranged**, **rang-ing**. —*n.* 1. the extent to which or the limits between which variation is possible: the range of seed prices. 2. the extent or scope of something: one's range of vision. 3. the distance to which a projectile may be sent by a weapon. 4. the distance of the target from the weapon. 5. an area equipped with targets for practice in shooting: a rifle range. 6. an area used for flight-testing missiles. 7. the distance of something from the point of operation, as in sound ranging. 8. the distance that can be covered by an aircraft, ship, etc., carrying a normal load without refueling. 9. the difference between the largest and smallest values in a statistical distribution. 10. a continuous course of masonry of the same height from end to end. 11. a line horizontal direction or extension of a survey line established by two or more marked points. b. one of a series of divisions of tracts of public land numbered east and west from the principal meridian of a survey and consisting of a tier of townships. 12. (in navigation) a line established by markers or lights on shore for the location of soundings. 13. a rank, class, or order. 14. a row, line, or series, as of persons or things. 15. the act of moving around, as over an area or region. 16. Also called *range-land*, an area or tract that is or may be ranged over; esp. an open region for the grazing of livestock. 17. the region over which a population of species is distributed: the range of the Baltimore Oriole. 18. Math, the set of all values attained by a given function throughout its domain. 19. a chain of mountains forming a single system: the Cascade Range. 20. a large cooking stove having burners on the top surface and containing one or more ovens. —*adj.* 21. working or grazing on a range. —*v.t.* 22. to draw up or arrange (persons or things) in rows or lines or in a specific position. 23. to place in a particular class; classify. 24. to make straight, level, or even, as lines of type. 25. to pass over or through (an area or region), as in exploring or searching. 26. to pasture (cattle) on a range. 27. to direct or train, as a telescope. 28. to ascertain the distance of. 29. to lay out (an anchor cable) so that the anchor may descend smoothly. —*v.i.* 30. to vary within certain limits: *Prices range from \$20 to \$50*. 31. to extend within extreme points of a scale: *emotions ranging from smugness to despair*. 32. to move around or through a region, as people or animals. 33. to roam or wander: *talks ranging over a variety of subjects*. 34. to extend in a certain direction: *a boundary ranging from east and west*. 35. to lie or extend in the same

definite limits. *with* the idea of freedom from granted latitude of action, limit: *the scope of one's*

range/ find'er or **rang**, determining the distance by sighting a gun or adjusting

range-land (rāng'lənd'), *n.*

Range/ley Lakes (rāng'leɪ'leɪk) (rāng'leɪ'leɪk), *n.* 1. guards who patrol a reg making surprise raids at ranges or roves. 5. (esp. a keeper of a royal forest)

Ran-goön (rang'gōn'), *n.*

rang-y (rāng'jē), *adj.*; **ran** slender and long-limbed: 3. (of terrain) mountainous

ra-ni or **ra-nee** (rā'nē, rā'nē), *n.* 1. a title of female. Hindi: *rāni*; cf. Skt *rājñī* q

ran-id (rān'ɪd, rā'n'ɪd), *n.* a Rantidae, characterized by —*n.* 2. frog: (def. 2). [rānə'frɔg] + *-idae* -ɪd']

rank (rang), *n.*, *v.*, **ran** tion or standing, as in the sition or station: a pers writer of the first rank. 4. players arranged in ran class, as in a social hier service; apart from its personnel as a group. 7. tion apart from the offic a line of persons, esp. tion (distilling from file), chessboard. 11. a set of 12. Mining, the classic to anthracite. —*v.t.* 13. to assign to a particular peris: 15. to outrank, or occupy a place in a of the other students. 18. rank: —*Idiom*. 20. b. military formation. b. t cal party, or the like. [line < Gmc, akin to R

rank (rang), *adj.*, **-er** ous and tall of growth gar. 3. utter; absolut moral sense; disgustl [bef. 1000; ME: OE. —**rank-ish**, *adj.* —**ran**

rank/ and file, *n.* 1. apart from its leader

rank-and-file, *adj.*

Ran-ke (rāng'ke), *n.* 1. rank-er, (rang'kər), *n.* ranks or a commissioner

Ran-kin (rang'kɪn), *n.* leader and pacifist; fl 1941-43.

Ran-king (rang'kɪŋ), *n.* (Ran'king scale) in Fahrenheit scale and [1920-25; after Willat

rank-ing (rang'kɪŋ), *n.* *ranking diplomat*. 2. an act or insta such standing. [1860

ran-klē (rang'kleɪ), *v.* etc.) to continue to ir cause; (a person) kee RANCLÉ < MF *rancle draucle* a sore < L pent; see DRAGON, CA

ran-sack (ran'sak), *v.* vigorously through (a plunder; pillage. [12 amine; (for evidence soekjato seek)] —**ra**

ran-som (ran'səm), *n.* a prisoner, kidnapp mandated for such rec for sin; or the mear —*v.t.* 4. to redeem man-dated price. 5. to 1200; ME *ransoun* + REDEMPTION] —**ran/s**

Ran-som (ran'səm), *n.* teacher;

rant (rant), *v.*, **rant**