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OPM

sh by radioactive decay. **3.** Increase in quality or quantity. **2.** *Phys.* Radioactive composition. **3.** A gradual deterioration. ruin. [*< VLat. *dēcadere,*

v. -ceased, -ceas·ing. To cease. [*< Lat. dēcēdere, go*

t') *adj.* No longer living; deceased. A dead person. *1* (*nt*) *n.* *Law.* A dead person. [*< OFr. dēcedere, go away, die.*]

1. Misrepresentation; deception; trick. [*< OFr. deceveir, DECEIVE.*] -de·ceit·ful·ly *adv.* -de·

v. -ceived, -ceiv·ing. To say what is not true; mislead. [*< Lat. dēcēdere, go*

sēl'ə-rāt') *v.* -at·ed, -at·ing. To reduce speed. [*DE-* + (AC)CEL·rate·tion *n.*

n' (*bər*) *n.* The 12th month of the calendar. See table at calendar. **2.** Occurring every tenth anniversary. [*< Lat. dēcēsimus, tenth month.*]

adj. **1.** Of or last-*ing*. **2.** Occurring every tenth anniversary. [*< Lat. dēcēsimus, tenth month.*]

adj. **1.** Conforming to the standard. **2.** Free from indecision. Meeting accepted standard. **3.** Kind or obliging. **5.** Modestly dressed. [*< OFr. dēcent, decently.*] -de·cent·cy *n.* -de·cent·ness *n.*

-sēn'trə-līz') *v.* -ized, -izing. To combine the functions of (a person or authority). To draw from an area of responsibility. -de·cent·ral·i·za·tion *n.* -de·cent·ral·i·za·tion *n.* **1.** The use of a person or state of being de-*ceptive*, *dēcept-*, de-

tiv) *adj.* Intended or intended. -de·cep·tive·ly *adv.*

h (10⁻¹): decigram. [*< Lat. dēcēsimus, tenth part.*]

-bēl') *n.* A unit used to measure power, usu. electric signals, equal to one-tenth of the logarithm of the power. [*DECI-* + *bel*, after *ELL.*]

-id·ed, -cid·ing. **1.** To remove uncertainty about. **2.** To determine the outcome of. [*< Lat. dēcidere, to decide.*] -de·cid·a·ble *adj.* -de·

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ly adv. -de·cid·u·ous·ness *n.* **dec·i·gram** (dēs'i-grām') *n.* See table at measurement.

de·cill·ion (dī-sil'yən) *n.* **1.** The cardinal number equal to 10³³. **2.** *Chiefly Brit.* The cardinal number equal to 10⁶⁰. [*Lat. decem, ten + (M)ILLION.*] -de·cill·ion·th *adj.* -de·cill·ion·th *adj.* & *n.*

de·ci·mal (dēs'ə-məl) *n.* *Math.* **1.** A linear array of integers that represents a fraction, every decimal place indicating a multiple of a negative power of 10. For example, the decimal 0.1 = 1/10, 0.12 = 12/100, 0.003 = 3/1000. **2.** A number written using the base 10. -*adj.* **1.** Expressed or expressible as a decimal. **2a.** Based on 10. **b.** Numbered or ordered by groups of 10. [*< Lat. decima, tenth part.*] -de·ci·mal·ly *adv.*

decimal place *n.* *Math.* The position of a digit to the right of a decimal point, usu. identified by successive ascending ordinal numbers with the digit immediately to the right of the decimal point being first.

decimal point *n.* *Math.* A dot written in a decimal number to indicate where the place values change from positive to negative powers of 10.

de·ci·mate (dēs'ə-māt') *v.* -mat·ed, -mat·ing. **1.** To destroy or kill a large part of. **2.** *Informal.* **a.** To inflict great damage on: *Deer decimated the new garden. **b.** To reduce markedly in amount: *hospital bills that decimated our savings.* [*Lat. decimare < decimus, tenth.*] -de·ci·ma·tion *n.**

Usage: Decimate originally referred to killing every tenth person, but commonly can be extended to include killing any large proportion of a group. Use of decimate to refer to large-scale destruction other than killing is less acceptable.

de·ci·me·ter (dēs'ə-mē'tər) *n.* See table at measurement.

de·ci·pher (dī-sī'fər) *v.* **1.** To read or interpret (obscure or illegible matter). See Syns at solve. **2.** To decode. -de·ci·pher·a·ble *adj.* -de·ci·pher·ment *n.*

de·ci·sion (dī-sīz'hən) *n.* **1.** The passing of judgment on an issue. **2.** A conclusion or judgment; verdict. **3.** Firmness of character or action; determination. **4.** *Sports.* A victory in boxing won on points when no knockout has occurred. [*< Lat. dēcidere, dēcis-, decide.*]

Syns: decision, conclusion, determination *n.*

de·ci·sive (dī-sī'siv) *adj.* **1.** Conclusive. **2.** Determined; resolute. **3.** Beyond doubt; unmistakable. -de·ci·sive·ly *adv.* -de·ci·sive·ness *n.*

Syns: decisive, conclusive, crucial, definitive, determinative *Ant:* indecisive *adj.*

deck¹ (dēk) *n.* **1.** A platform extending horizontally from one side of a ship to the other. **2.** A similar platform or surface, esp. a roofless floored area adjoining a house. **3.** A pack of playing cards. [*MDu. dec, covering.* See (s)teg·.]

deck² (dēk) *v.* **1.** To clothe with finery; adorn. **2.** To decorate. [*< MDu. decken, to cover.* See (s)teg·.]

deck chair *n.* A folding chair, usu. with arms and a leg rest.

de·claim (dī-klām') *v.* To speak loudly and with rhetorical effect. [*< Lat. dēclāmāre,*

cry out.] -de·claim·er *n.* -de·clā·ma·tion (dēk'lə-mā'shən) *n.* -de·clam·a·to·ry (dī-klām'ə-tōr'ē, -tōr'ē) *adj.*

de·clare (dī-klār') *v.* -clared, -clar·ing. **1.** To make known formally, officially, or authoritatively. See Syns at announce. **2.** To reveal or show. **3.** To make a full statement of (e.g., dutiable goods). **4.** To proclaim one's support or opinion. [*< Lat. dēclārāre.*] -de·clā·ra·tion (dēk'lə-rā'shən) *n.* -de·clar·a·tive *adj.* -de·clar·er *n.*

de·clas·si·fy (dē-klās'ə-fī') *v.* To remove official security classification from (a document). -de·clas·si·fi·ca·tion *n.*

de·clic·sion (dī-klēn'shən) *n.* **1.** *Ling.* **a.** The inflection of nouns, pronouns, and adjectives for case, number, and gender. **b.** A class of words with the same inflections. **2.** A descent. **3.** A decline or deterioration. [*< Lat. dēclīnātiō < dēclīnāre, decline.*] -de·clic·sion·al *adj.*

de·cline (dī-klīn') *v.* -clined, -clin·ing. **1.** To express polite refusal. **2.** To slope downward. **3.** To deteriorate gradually; fail. **4.** *Gram.* To inflect (a noun, pronoun, or adjective). -*n.* **1.** The process or result of declining. **2.** A downward slope. **3.** A disease that gradually weakens the body. [*< Lat. dēclīnāre, turn aside : DE- + -clīnāre, lean; see klel·.*] -de·clin·a·ble *adj.* -de·clī·na·tion (dēk'lə-nā'shən) *n.* -de·clī·na·tion·al *adj.* -de·clin·er *n.*

de·cliv·i·ty (dī-klīv'i-tē) *n., pl. -ties.* A downward slope. [*< Lat. dēclīvis, sloping down : DE- + clīvus, slope; see klel·.*]

de·code (dē-kōd') *v.* To convert from code into plain text. -de·cod·er *n.*

dé·colle·tage (dā'kōl-tāzh') *n.* A low neckline, esp. on a dress. [*Fr. < décolleter, lower a neckline.*]

dé·colle·té (dā'kōl-tā') *adj.* Cut low at the neckline. [*Fr.*]

de·col·o·nize (dē-kōl'ə-nīz') *v.* To free (a colony) from dependent status. -de·col·o·ni·za·tion *n.*

de·com·mis·sion (dē'kə-mīsh'ən) *v.* To withdraw (e.g., a ship) from active service.

de·com·pose (dē'kəm-pōz') *v.* **1.** To separate into components or basic elements. **2.** To rot or cause to rot. -de·com·pos·a·ble *adj.* -de·com·pos·er *n.* -de·com·po·si·tion (dē-kōm-pō-zīsh'ən) *n.*

de·com·press (dē'kəm-prēs') *v.* To relieve of pressure. -de·com·pres·sion *n.*

decompression sickness *n.* A disorder, seen esp. in deep-sea divers, caused by nitrogen bubbles in the blood and characterized by severe pain and paralysis.

de·con·gest (dē'kən-jēs't') *v.* To relieve the congestion of (e.g., sinuses). -de·con·ges·tion *n.* -de·con·ges·tive *adj.*

de·con·ges·tant (dē'kən-jēs'tənt) *n.* A medication that breaks up congestion, esp. in the sinuses.

de·con·tam·i·nate (dē'kən-tām'ə-nāt') *v.* **1.** To eliminate contamination in. **2.** To make safe by eliminating poisonous or harmful substances, such as radioactive material. -de·con·tam·i·nant *n.* -de·con·tam·i·na·tion *n.*

de·con·trol (dē'kən-trōl') *v.* To stop control of, esp. by the government.

dé·cor or **de·cor** (dā'kōr', dā-kōr') *n.* **1.** Decoration. **2.** A decorative style, fashion,

nal adj. — *fau'nal·ly adv.*
Faust (foust) also **Faus·tus** (fou'stəs, fô'-) *n.* A magician and alchemist in German legend who sells his soul to the devil for power and knowledge. — **Faust'ian** (fou'stē-ən) *adj.*
fau·vism (fō'viz'əm) *n.* An early 20th-cent. movement in painting marked by the use of bold, often distorted forms and vivid colors. [Fr. *fauvisme* < *fauve*, wild animal.] — **fau'vist adj.**
faux pas (fō pā') *n., pl. faux pas* (fō pāz'). A social blunder. [Fr.]
fa·va bean (fā'və) *n.* See **broad bean**. [Ital. *fava* < Lat. *faba*, broad bean.]
fa·vor (fā'vər) *n.* 1. A gracious, friendly, or obliging act that is freely granted. 2.a. Friendly regard; approval or support. b. A state of being held in such regard. 3. Unfair partiality; favoritism. 4.a. A privilege or concession. b. **favours**. Sexual privileges, esp. as granted by a woman. 5. A small gift given to each guest at a party. 6. Advantage; benefit. — *v.* 1. To oblige. See **Syns at oblige**. 2. To treat or regard with approval or support. 3. To be partial to. 4. To make easier; facilitate. 5. To be gentle with. 6. **Regional**. To resemble: *She favors her father.* — **idiom**. in favor of. 1. In support of. 2. To the advantage of. [< Lat.]
fa·vor·a·ble (fā'vər-ə-bəl, fāv'rə-) *adj.* 1. Advantageous; helpful: *favorable winds*. 2. Encouraging; propitious: *a favorable diagnosis*. 3. Manifesting approval: *a favorable report*. 4. Winning approval; pleasing: *a favorable impression*. 5. Granting what has been requested. — **fa'vor·a·ble·ness n.** — **fa'vor·a·bly adv.**
fa·vor·ite (fā'vər-it, fāv'rit) *n.* 1.a. One enjoying special favor or regard. b. One trusted or preferred above others, esp. by a superior. 2. A competitor regarded as most likely to win. [< OItal. *favorito*, p.part. of *favorire*, to favor.] — **fa'vor·ite adj.**
favorite son *n.* A man favored for nomination as a presidential candidate by his own state delegates at a national political convention.
fa·vor·it·ism (fā'vər-ī-tiz'əm, fāv'ri-) *n.* A display of partiality toward a favored person or group.
Fawkes (fōks), **Guy**. 1570–1606. English Gunpowder Plot conspirator; executed.
fawn (fōn) *v.* 1. To exhibit affection or attempt to please, as a dog. 2. To seek favor or attention by obsequiousness. [< OE *fagnian*, rejoice < *fægen*, glad.] — **fawn'er n.** — **fawn'ing·ly adv.**
Syns: *fawn, bootlick, kowtow, slaver, toady, truckle v.*
fawn (fōn) *n.* 1. A young deer. 2. **Color**. A grayish yellow brown. [< OFr. *faon*, young animal < Lat. *fētus*, offspring.]
fax (fāks) *n.* See **facsimile** 2. — *v.* To transmit (printed matter or an image) by electronic means. [Alteration of **FACSIMILE**.]
fay (fā) *n.* A fairy or elf. [< OFr. *fae*. See **FAIRY**.]
faze (fāz) *v.* **fazed, faz·ing**. To disconcert. See **Syns at embarrass**. [< OE *fēsian*, drive away.]
FBI also **F.B.I.** *abbr.* Federal Bureau of Investigation.
FCC *abbr.* Federal Communications Commission.

FDA *abbr.* Food and Drug Administration.
FDIC *abbr.* Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.
Fe The symbol for the element iron 1. [Lat. *ferrum*, iron.]
fe·al·ty (fē'əl-tē) *n., pl. -ties*. 1. The fidelity owed by a vassal to his feudal lord. 2. Faithfulness; allegiance. [< Lat. *fideliās*, faithfulness.]
fear (fir) *n.* 1.a. A feeling of agitation and anxiety caused by the presence or imminence of danger. b. A state marked by this feeling. 2. A feeling of disquiet or apprehension. 3. Reverence or awe, as toward a deity. 4. A reason for dread or apprehension. — *v.* 1. To be afraid of. 2. To be apprehensive about. 3. To be in awe of. 4. To expect: *I fear you are wrong*. [< OE *fær*, danger.] — **fear'er n.** — **fear'less adj.** — **fear'less·ly adv.** — **fear'less·ness n.**
fear·ful (fir'fəl) *adj.* 1. Causing or capable of causing fear; frightening. 2. Experiencing fear; frightened. See **Syns at afraid**. 3. Timid; nervous. 4. Indicating anxiety or terror. 5. Feeling dread or awe. 6. Extreme, as in degree or extent. — **fear'ful·ly adv.** — **fear'ful·ness n.**
fear·some (fir'səm) *adj.* 1. Causing or capable of causing fear. 2. Fearful; timid. — **fear'some·ly adv.** — **fear'some·ness n.**
fea·si·ble (fē'zə-bəl) *adj.* 1. Capable of being accomplished or brought about; possible. 2. Used successfully; suitable. [< OFr. *faire*, *fais-*, do.] — **fea'si·bil'i·ty, fea'si·ble·ness n.** — **fea'si·bly adv.**
feast (fēst) *n.* 1. A large elaborate meal; banquet. 2. A religious festival. — *v.* 1. To entertain or feed sumptuously. 2. To eat heartily. 3. To experience something with gratification or delight. — **idiom**. **feast (one's) eyes on**. To be delighted by the sight of. [< Lat. *festum*.] — **feast'er n.**
feat (fēt) *n.* A notable act or deed, esp. of courage. [< Lat. *factum*.]
Syns: *feat, achievement, exploit, masterstroke n.*
feath·er (fēth'ər) *n.* 1. One of the light, flat, hollow-shafted growths forming the plumage of birds. 2. **feathers**. Plumage. 3. Character, kind, or nature. — *v.* 1. To cover, dress, or decorate with or as if with feathers. 2. To fit (an arrow) with a feather. 3. To turn (an oar blade) almost horizontal as it is carried back after each stroke. 4. To alter the pitch of (a propeller) so that the chords of the blades are parallel with the line of flight. — **idioms**. **feather in (one's cap)**. An act or deed to one's credit. **feather (one's) nest**. To grow wealthy esp. by abusing a position of trust. In **fine feather**. In excellent form, health, or humor. [< OE *fether*.] — **feath'er·y adj.**
feath·er·bed (fēth'ər-bēd') *v.* **-bed·ded, -bed·ding**. To employ more workers than are needed for a job.
feather bed *n.* A mattress stuffed with feathers.
feath·er·brain (fēth'ər-brān') *n.* A flighty or empty-headed person. — **feath'er·brained adj.**
feath·er·edge (fēth'ər-ēj') *n.* A thin fragile edge.
feath·er·stitch (fēth'ər-stīč') *n.* An embroidery stitch that produces a decorative

zigzag line. — **feath'er·weight** (fēth'ər) A boxer weighing from between a bantamweight and An insignificant person.
fea·ture (fē'chər) *n.* 1.a. parts of the face, as the Often **features**. The ov the face. 2. A prominent ity or characteristic. 3. entation at a theater. 4. or story in a newspaper item offered as an induc-tur·ing. 1. To publici-ent. 2. To include as ; characteristic. 3. To dr [< Lat. *factūra*, a mak **Feb.** also **Feb** *abbr.* **Febri feb·ri·fuge** (fēb'rə-fyoo that reduces a fever. [I *fugāre*, drive away.]
feb·rile (fēb'rəl, fē'b'rəl having a fever. [< Lat **Feb·ru·ar·y** (fēb'rō-ər -ies. The 2nd month of endar. See table at **ca bruārius**.]
fe·ces (fē'sēz) *pl.n.* **We the bowels; excrement. dregs.]** — **fe'cal** (fēkəl) **feck·less** (fēk'lis) *adj.* 1 vitality; ineffective. 2. ble. [Sc. *feck*, effect + **ly adv.** — **feck'less·nes fe·cund** (fē'kənd, fēk' producing offspring or See **Syns at fertile**. [< **cun'di·ty** (fi-kūn'di-tē **fe·cun·date** (fē'kən-dā ed, -dat·ing. To im) — **fe'cun·da'tion n.**
fed (fēd) *v.* **P.t.** and **p.p.** **fed** *abbr.* 1. Federal. 2 **fed·er·al** (fēd'ər-əl, fēc to or being a form of a union of states rec authority while retain government. 2. **Federa Union cause during War. 3. Often Federal. tral government of the 1. Federal. A Union during the American Federal. A federal age foedus, foeder-, lea **adv.**
fed·er·al·ism (fēd'ər- 1. A system of federa vocacy of such a syst **Federalism**. The doct Party.
fed·er·al·ist (fēd'ər-ə advocate of federali member of a U.S. r 1790's advocating a s ment. — **fed'er·al·ist fed·er·al·ize** (fēd'ər-ə -iz·ing. 1. To unite in put under federal cc za'tion **n.**
fed·er·ate (fēd'ə-rāt') join or unite in a lea similar association — **fed'er·a'tion n.****

without proof as being self-evident or generally accepted. [*< Lat. postulāre, request.*] — **pos'tu'la'tion** *n.*

pos'ture (pōs'chər) *n.* **1.** A position or attitude of the body or of body parts. **2.** An attitude; pose: *assumed a posture of defiance.* **3.** A stance with regard to something. **4.** A frame of mind; attitude. — *v.* — **pos'tured, -tur'ing.** To assume an exaggerated or unnatural pose or mental attitude. [*< Lat. positūra, position.*] — **pos'tur'al** *adj.* — **pos'tur'er, pos'tur'ist** *n.*

Syns: posture, attitude, carriage, pose, stance *n.*

pos'sy (pō'zē) *n., pl. -sies.* A flower or bunch of flowers. [*< POESY.*]

pot (pōt) *n.* **1.** A round cooking vessel with a handle. **2.** Something resembling a pot in appearance or function. **3.** *Games.* The total amount staked by all the players in one hand at cards. See **Syns** at **bet.** **4.** *Informal.* A common fund. — *v.* — **pot'ed, pot'ting.** **1.** To place or plant in a pot. **2.** To cook or preserve in a pot. [*< VLat. *pottus.*]

pot² (pōt) *n.* *Slang.* Marijuana. [?]

pot. *abbr.* Potential.

po'ta'ble (pō'tā-bəl) *adj.* Fit to drink. [*< Lat. potāre, drink.*]

pot'ash (pōt'āsh') *n.* **1.** See **potassium carbonate.** **2.** See **potassium hydroxide.** **3.** Any of several compounds containing potassium, esp. soluble compounds used chiefly in fertilizers. [*< obsolete pot ashes.*]

po'tas'si-um (pō-tās'ē-əm) *n.* *Symbol K* A soft, silver-white, highly or explosively reactive metallic element found naturally only in compounds and used in fertilizers and soaps. At. no. 19. See **table** at **element.** [*< POTASH.*] — **po'tas'sic** *adj.*

potassium bromide *n.* A white crystalline solid or powder, KBr, used as a sedative and in lithography.

potassium carbonate *n.* A granular powder used in making glass, enamels, and soaps.

potassium cyanide *n.* An extremely poisonous white compound used in electroplating, photography, and as an insecticide.

potassium hydroxide *n.* A caustic white solid used as a bleach and in making soaps, dyes, and alkaline batteries; lye.

potassium nitrate *n.* A white crystalline compound used to pickle meat and in making explosives and fertilizers; saltpeter.

po'ta'tion (pō-tā'shən) *n.* **1.** The act of drinking. **2.** A drink, esp. an alcoholic beverage. [*< Lat. potāre, drink.*]

po'ta'to (pō-tā'tō) *n., pl. -toes.* **1.** A South American plant widely cultivated for its starchy edible tubers. **2.** A tuber of this plant. [*< Taino batata.*]

potato chip *n.* A thin slice of potato fried in deep fat until crisp and then salted.

Pot'a-wat'o-mi (pōt'ə-wōt'ə-mē) *n., pl. -mi or -mis.* **1.** A member of a Native American people with populations in Oklahoma, Kansas, Michigan, and Ontario. **2.** The Algonquian language of the Potawatomi.

pot'bel'ly (pōt'bəl'ē) *n.* A protruding belly. — **pot'bel'lied** *adj.*

pot'boil'er (pōt'boi'lər) *n.* A literary or artistic work of poor quality, produced quickly for profit.

pot cheese *n.* See **cottage cheese.**

po'tent (pōt'nt) *adj.* **1.** Possessing strength;

powerful. **2.** Exerting or capable of exerting strong effects. **3.** Able to perform sexual intercourse. Used of a male. [*< Lat. potēns.*] — **po'ten'cy** *n.* — **po'tent'ly** *adv.*

po'ten'tate (pōt'n-tāt') *n.* One who has the power and position to rule over others; monarch. [*< Lat. potentātus, power.*]

po'ten'tial (pō-tēn'shəl) *adj.* Capable of being but not yet in existence; latent. — **1.** Capacity for growth, development, or coming into being. **2.** *Symbol V Elect.* The potential energy of a unit charge measured with respect to a specified reference point; voltage. — **po'ten'ti'al'i'ty** (-shē-āl'i-tē) *n.* — **po'ten'tial'ly** *adv.*

potential energy *n.* The energy of a body or system derived from position or condition rather than motion.

pot'head (pōt'hēd') *n.* *Slang.* One who habitually smokes marijuana.

pot'her (pōth'ər) *n.* **1.** A commotion; disturbance. **2.** A fuss. [?]

pot'hold'er (pōt'hōl'dər) *n.* A small fabric pad used to handle hot cooking utensils.

pot'hole (pōt'hōl') *n.* A large hole, esp. in a road surface. — **pot'holed'** *adj.*

po'tion (pō'shən) *n.* A liquid dose, esp. of medicinal, magic, or poisonous content. [*< Lat. potiō.*]

pot'luck (pōt'lūk') *n.* **1.** Whatever food happens to be available for a meal. **2.** A meal at which each guest brings food that is then shared by all.

Po'to'mac River (pō-tō'mæk). A river of the E-central U.S. rising in NE WV and flowing c. 459 km (285 mi) to Chesapeake Bay.

pot'pie (pōt'pī') *n.* Meat or poultry and vegetables covered with a pastry crust and baked in a deep dish.

pot'pour'ri (pō'pōr-rē') *n., pl. -ris.* **1.** A combination of incongruous things. **2.** A mixture of dried flower petals and spices. [*Fr. pot pourri.*]

pot roast *n.* Beef that is browned and then cooked until tender in a covered pot.

Pots'dam (pōts'dām'). A city of NE Germany on the Havel R. near Berlin. Pop. 135,922

pot'sherd (pōt'shūrd') also **pot'shard** (-shärd') *n.* A fragment of broken pottery.

pot'shot also **pot shot** (pōt'shōt') *n.* **1.** A random or easy shot, esp. from a safe position. **2.** A criticism made without careful thought and aimed at a handy target.

pot'tage (pōt'ij) *n.* A thick soup or stew of vegetables and sometimes meat. [*< OFr. potage.*]

pot'ted (pōt'id) *adj.* **1.** Placed or grown in a pot. **2.** *Slang.* Intoxicated; drunk.

pot'ter¹ (pōt'ər) *n.* A maker of pottery.

pot'ter² (pōt'ər) *v.* *Chiefly Brit.* Var. of **put-ter**².

Pot'ter (pōt'ər), **Beatrix.** 1866–1943. British writer and illustrator.

pot'ter'y (pōt'ər-ē) *n., pl. -ies.* **1.** Ware, such as vases, pots, bowls, or plates, shaped from moist clay and hardened by heat. **2.** The craft or occupation of a potter. **3.** The place where a potter works.

pouch (pouch) *n.* **1.** A small bag used esp. for carrying loose items. **2.** A bag used to carry mail or diplomatic dispatches. **3.** A sealed container used in packaging frozen or dehydrated food. **4.** *Zool.* A saclike

structure, such as a pocket in which a young. [*< OFr., of poultice* (pōl'tis) *n.* heated mass spread a sore or inflamed part. Lat. *pultēs*, thick paste.]

poul'try (pōl'trē) *n.* as chickens, turkeys raised for meat or eggs

pounce (pouns) *v.* to spring or swoop upon someone or something. — **pounce** *n.* — **pound**¹ (pound) *n., pl.* See **table** at **measure** apothecary weight and **gr.** **2.** A unit of weight in countries and times. *cy.* [*< Lat. pondō, b*

pound² (pound) *v.* **1.** and forcefully. See **S** to a powder or pulp; To instill by persistence **4.** To pulsate rapidly *pūnian.*] — **pound'er**

pound³ (pound) *n.* A confining stray animal

Pound (pound), **Ezra** Amer. writer.

pound'age (poun'dij) *n.* pounds.

pound cake *n.* A rich cake of eggs, flour, butter, and

pour (pōr, pōr) *v.* **1.** To flow in a steady stream. **2.** To produce copiously, as if it rains heavily. [*ME. To rain heavily.*] — **pout** (pout) *v.* **1.** To express disappointment; sulk lips in an expression *pouten.*] — **pout** *n.* — **pow'er'y** (pōv'ər-tē) *n.* **1.** *ing poor; lack of money **2.** Deficiency in amount or productivity. [*< L**

pow'er'y-strick'en *adj.* Destitute; misera

POW (pē'ō-düb'əl-yōō, also **POWs.** A prisoner of war)

pow'der (pou'dər) *n.* consisting of ground, pulverized, finely dispersed solid particles. **1.** Various preparations in as certain cosmetics and an explosive mixture, such as Light dry snow. — *v.* **1.** To dust or cover with or to [*Lat. pulvis, pulver-.*]

powder keg *n.* **1.** A snare for gunpowder or other explosive material. **2.** A situationally explosive situation

powder puff *n.* A soft powder for the skin.

powder room *n.* A lavatory

pow'er (pou'ər) *n.* **1.** To perform or act effectively. A specific capacity: *her powers of persuasion.* **2.** Strength or force exerted; might. **4.** Capacity to exercise control over others. **6.**

A monastic officer in [*< Lat., superior.*]
n. A nun in charge of

·tīz', -ōr') *v.* -tized,
 or deal with in order of
 (v) + -IZE.] —*pri·or'*-

be argued that *prioritize*
 ction in providing a sin-
 arrange according to pri-
 many other recent
 ze, it is widely regarded
 ureaucratic jargon. See
 e.

[-tē, -ōr'-) *n., pl. -ties.* 1.
 y order of importance.
 ight to precedence. 3.
 ng prior attention.

re.
n., pl. -les. A monastery
 or a convent governed

1. A polyhedron with par-
 ylgons as ends and par-
 s. 2. A transparent solid,
 r ends, used for separat-
 ed into a spectrum. 3. A
 such as a pendant of a
 . *prisma.*] —*pris·mat'ic*
 —*pris·mat'ic·ly adv.*

. A place where persons
 ized of crimes are con-
 . *prēnsiō, a seizing.*
 -nər, priz'nər) *n.* 1. A
 tudy or captivity, esp. in
 eprived of freedom of ex-

, *pl. prisoners of war.* A
 or surrendering to enemy

ij. -si·er, -si·est. Exces-
 proper. [Perh. blend of
] —*pris'si·ness n.*

l', pri-stēn') *adj.* 1. Re-
 state; uncorrupted. 2. Of
 earliest time or condition;
 nal. [Lat. *pristinus.*]

prith'ē) *interj.* Archaic.
ty thee.]

sē) *n.* 1. The condition of
 om others. 2. Secrecy.

adj. 1. Secluded from the
 r intrusion of others. 2. Of
 e individual; personal. 3.
 r public use, control, or
 Belonging to a particular
 s. 5. Not holding an official

1. 6. Intimate; secret. —*n.*
 st enlisted ranks, as in the
 at. *privātus, not in public*
ly adv. —*pri'vate·ness n.*

n. Business activities un-
 e ownership or control.

ə-tīr') *n.* 1. A ship private-
 unned but authorized to at-
 enemy vessels. 2. Such a
 er or one of its crew.

ā'shən) *n.* 1. Lack of the
 or comforts of life. 2. The
 ng from such lack. [*< Lat.*
 .]

və-tīz') *v.* -tized, -tiz·ing.
 an industry) from govern-

mental or public ownership or control to
 private enterprise. See Usage Note at -ize.
 —*pri'va·ti·za'tion n.*

priv·et (priv'it) *n.* A shrub having opposite
 leaves and clusters of white flowers, widely
 used for hedges. [?]

priv·i·lege (priv'ə-līj, priv'līj) *n.* A special
 advantage, immunity, or benefit granted to
 or enjoyed by an individual, class, or caste.
 —*v.* -leged, -leg·ing. To grant a privilege to.
 [*< Lat. privilegium.*]

priv·i·leged (priv'ə-lījd, priv'lījd) *adj.* 1.
 Having privileges. 2. Confined to a chosen
 group of individuals: *privileged informa-*
tion.

priv·y (priv'ē) *adj.* 1. Made a participant in
 something secret. 2. Belonging to a person,
 such as the British sovereign, in a private
 rather than official capacity. —*n., pl. -les.*
 An outhouse. [*< Lat. privātus, private.*]

*prize*¹ (priz) *n.* 1. Something offered or won
 as an award for superiority or victory, as in
 a contest or competition. 2. Something
 worth striving for or aspiring to. —*adj.* 1.
 Offered or given as a prize. 2. Given or
 worthy of a prize. 3. Outstanding. —*v.*
prized, priz·ing. To value highly; esteem.
 [*< ME pris, PRICE.*]

*prize*² (priz) *n.* Something, esp. an enemy
 ship captured during wartime. [*< OFr.*
prise.]

*prize*³ (priz) *v.* *prized, priz·ing.* To move
 with a lever; pry. [*< ME prise, instrument*
for prying.]

prize·fight (priz'fit) *n.* A match fought be-
 tween professional boxers for money.
 —*prize'fight'er n.* —*prize'fight'ing n.*

prize·win·ner (priz'win'ər) *n.* One that
 wins a prize. —*prize'win'ning adj.*

*pro*¹ (prō) *n., pl. pros.* 1. An argument in
 favor of something. 2. One who takes an
 affirmative position. —*adv.* In favor; affir-
 matively. [*< Lat. prō, for.*]

*pro*² (prō) *Informal n., pl. pros.* 1. A profes-
 sional. 2. An expert. —*adj.* Professional.

pro⁻¹ *pref.* 1. Acting in place of: *pronoun.* 2.
 Supporting; favoring: *prorevolutionary.* [*<*
Lat. prō, for.]

pro⁻² *pref.* 1. Precursor of: *procaine* 2. An-
 terior: *prognathous.* [*< Gk. pro.*]

prob. abbr. Probable; probably.

prob·a·bil·i·ty (prōb'ə-bil'i-tē) *n., pl.*
-ties. 1. The quality or condition of being
 probable; likelihood. 2. A probable situa-
 tion, condition, or event. 3. *Statistics.* A
 number expressing the likelihood that a
 specific event will occur.

prob·a·ble (prōb'ə-bəl) *adj.* 1. Likely to
 happen or to be true. 2. Likely but uncer-
 tain; plausible. [*< Lat. probāre, prove.*]
 —*prob'a·bly adv.*

prob·ate (prō'bāt') *Law n.* The process of
 establishing the validity of a will. —*v.* -bat·
 ed, -bat·ing. To establish the validity of (a
 will). [*< Lat. probāre, prove.*]

prob·a·tion (prō-bā'shən) *n.* 1. A trial pe-
 riod in which a person's fitness, as for
 membership in a group, is tested. 2. *Law.*
 The release of a convicted offender on the
 condition of good behavior. [*< Lat.*
probāre, test.] —*prob'a·tion·al adj.*
 —*prob'a·tion·ar'y adj.*

prob·a·tion·er (prō-bā'shə-nər) *n.* A per-
 son on probation.

pro·ba·tive (prō'bə-tiv) *adj.* 1. Serving to
 test or prove. 2. Furnishing evidence or
 proof.

probe (prōb) *n.* 1. An exploratory action, ex-
 pedition, or device, esp. one designed to
 investigate an unknown region. 2. A slen-
 der, flexible instrument used to explore a
 wound or body cavity. 3. A thorough ex-
 amination or investigation. See Syns at *in-*
quiry. —*v.* *probed, prob·ing.* 1. To explore
 with or as if with a probe. 2. To delve into;
 investigate. [*< Lat. probāre, test.*]

pro·bi·ty (prō'bī-tē) *n.* Integrity; honesty.
 [*< Lat. probus, upright.*]

prob·lem (prōb'ləm) *n.* 1. A question to be
 considered, solved, or answered. 2. A sit-
 uation, matter, or person that presents per-
 plexity or difficulty. —*adj.* Difficult to deal
 with or control: *a problem child.* [*< Gk.*
problēma.]

prob·lem·at·ic (prōb'lə-mät'ik) also *prob-*
lem·at·ic·al (-i-kəl) *adj.* 1. Posing a prob-
 lem. 2. Open to doubt; dubious or
 unsettled. —*prob'lem·at'ic·ly adv.*

pro·bo·no (prō bō'nō) *adj.* Done for the
 public good without compensation. [Lat.
prō bonō (publicō), for the (public) good.]

pro·bos·cis (prō-bōs'is) *n., pl. -cis·es* or
-bos·ci·des (-bōs'i-dēz'). A long, flexible
 snout or trunk, as of an elephant. [*< Gk.*
proboskis.]

pro·caine (prō'kān') *n.* A white crystalline
 powder, C₁₃H₂₀N₂O₂, used chiefly in its
 hydrochloride form as a local anesthetic.
 [PRO-2 + (CO)CAINE.]

pro·ce·dure (prə-sē'jər) *n.* 1. A way of do-
 ing something. 2. A series of steps to an
 end. 3. A set of established forms or meth-
 ods for conducting legal or business affairs.
 [*< OFr. proceder, PROCEED.*] —*pro·ce'dur·*
al adj. —*pro·ce'dur·al·ly adv.*

pro·ceed (prō-sēd', prə-) *v.* 1. To continue,
 esp. after an interruption. 2. To begin to
 carry on an action or a process. 3. To pro-
 gress in an orderly manner. 4. To come from
 a source; originate. See Syns at *stem*¹. 5.
 To institute and conduct legal action. —*n.*
pro·ceeds. (prō'sēdz'). The amount of
 money derived from a commercial or fund-
 raising venture. [*< Lat. prōcēdere.*]

pro·ceed·ing (prō-sē'dīng, prə-) *n.* 1. A
 course of action; procedure. 2. *proceedings.*
 a. Events; doings. b. A record of business
 carried on by an organization. 3. Often *pro-*
ceedings. Legal action; litigation.

*proc·ess*¹ (prōs'ēs', prō'sēs') *n.* 1. A series
 of actions, changes, or functions bringing
 about a result. 2. Progress; passage: *the*
process of time. 3. *Law.* a. The entire
 course of a judicial proceeding. b. A sum-
 mons or writ ordering a defendant to appear
 in court. 4. *Biol.* An outgrowth of tissue: *a*
bony process. —*v.* 1. To put through the
 steps of a prescribed procedure. 2. To pre-
 pare, treat, or convert by subjecting to a
 special process. 3. *Comp. Sci.* To perform
 operations on (data). [*< Lat. prōcēdere,*
prōcess-, advance.]

*pro·cess*² (prə-sēs') *v.* To move along in or
 as if in a procession. [*< PROCESSION.*]

pro·ces·sion (prə-sēsh'ən) *n.* A group of
 persons, vehicles, or objects moving along
 in an orderly, formal manner.

pro·ces·sion·al (prə-sēsh'ə-nəl) *n.* Music

ut she arrived. —*adj.*,
one indicated or im-
Being the one further
vious: *That route is*
—*adv.* To such an
cult? —*conj.* 1. Used
linate clause: *I doubt*
Used to introduce an
Oh, that I were rich!

lard rule is that *that*
o introduce a restric-
relative clause, which
e entity being talked
The house that Jack
own, where the clause
which house was torn
to be used with non-
defining") clauses,
information about an
been identified in the
say *The students in*
en complaining about
ot that) is hard to fol-
s at this, there.

stalks or foliage used
over with or as if with
See (s)teg-.

Margaret Hilda. b.
minister (1979–90).



Margaret Thatcher

nge from a frozen sol-
al warming. 2. To lose
by being warmed. 3.
ugh for snow and ice
less reserved. —*n.* 1.
g. 2. A period during
elt. 3. A relaxation of
< OE *thawian*.]
he primary intoxicant
shish. [*t(etra)h(ydro)c*

vel; thā before a con-
sed before singular or
n phrases that denote
persons or things: the
ed before a noun or an
ic force: an animal
rich. [< OE.]

vel; thā before a con-
se of that: thinks the
that extent; by that
better. [< OE *thȳ*.]
re (thē'ə-tər) *n.* 1. A
ation of plays, films,
formances. 2. A room
d for lectures or dem-
atic literature or per-
ting, as for military

operations. [< Gk. *theatron*.]

the·at·ri·cal (thē-ăt'ri-kəl) *adj.* 1. Of or
suitable for the theater. 2. Affectedly dra-
matic. —*n.* Often **theatricals**. Stage per-
formances, esp. by amateurs. —**the·at·ri·**
cal'i·ty (-käl'i-tē), **the·at·ri·cal·ness** *n.*
—**the·at·ri·cal·ly** *adv.*

the·at·rics (thē-ăt'riks) *n.* 1. (*takes sing.*
v.) The art of the theater. 2. (*takes pl. v.*)
Theatrical effects or mannerisms.

the·be (tē'bē) *n.* See table at **currency**. [<
Sotho.]

Thebes (thēbz). 1. An ancient city of Upper
Egypt on the Nile R. 2. An ancient city of
Greece NW of Athens. —**The'ban** *adj.* & *n.*

thee (thē) *pron.* The objective case of **thou**.

theft (thēft) *n.* The act of stealing; larceny.
[< OE *thieft*.]

their (thâr) *adj.* The possessive form of **they**.
Used as a modifier before a noun: *their*
house. [< ON *theira*.]

theirs (thârz) *pron.* (*takes sing. or pl. v.*) The
one or ones belonging to them: *The red*
house is theirs.

the·ism (thē'iz'əm) *n.* Belief in the exist-
ence of a god or gods. —**the'ist** *n.* —**the·**
is'tic, **the·is'ti·cal** *adj.*

them (thēm, thəm) *pron.* The objective case
of **they**. 1. Used as the direct or indirect
object of a verb. 2. Used as the object of a
preposition. See Usage Note at 11. [< ON
theim and OE *thæm*.]

the·mat·ic (thī-măt'ik) *adj.* Of or being a
theme. [Gk. *thematikos*.] —**the·mat'i·cal·**
ly *adv.*

theme (thēm) *n.* 1. A topic of discourse or
discussion. 2. The subject of an artistic
work. 3. An implicit or recurrent idea; mot-
if. 4. A short written composition. 5. *Mus.*
The principal melodic phrase in a composi-
tion. [< Gk. *thema*.]

theme song *n.* A recurring or distinctive
song associated with a particular produc-
tion, character, or performer.

them·selves (thēm-sēlvz', thəm-) *pron.* 1.
Those ones identical with them. 2. Used re-
flexively as the direct or indirect object of a
verb or as the object of a preposition. 3.
Used for emphasis: *We ourselves have*
heard nothing. See Usage Note at **myself**.

then (thēn) *adv.* 1. At that time. 2. Next in
time; space, or order. 3. In addition; more-
over; besides. 4. In that case: *If it snows,*
then bring your skis. 5. As a consequence:
The case, then, is closed. —*n.* That time or
moment. —*adj.* Being so at that time. [<
OE *thenne*.]

thence (thēns, thēns) *adv.* 1. From there. 2.
From that circumstance or source. 3. *Ar-*
chaic. Thenceforth. [< OE *thanon*.]

thence·forth (thēns-fōrth', -fōrth', thēns-)
adv. From that time forward; thereafter.

thence·for·ward (thēns-fōr'wārd, thēns-)
also **thence·for·wards** (-wārdz) *adv.* From
that time or place onward; thenceforth.

theo- or **the-** *pref.* God: *theocracy*. [<
Gk. *theos*, god.]

the·oc·ra·cy (thē-ök'rə-sē) *n., pl. -cies*. 1.
A government ruled by or subject to relig-
ious authority. 2. A state so governed.
—**the'o·crat'** (thē'ə-krăt') *n.* —**the'o·**
crat'ic *adj.* —**the'o·crat'i·cal·ly** *adv.*

The·oc·ri·tus (thē-ök'ri-təs). 3rd cent. B.C.
Greek poet.

The·o·do·ra (thē'ə-dōr'ə, -dōr'-). 508?–
548. Byzantine empress (525–548).

The·od·o·ric (thē-ōd'ər-ik). A.D. 454?–526.
King of the Ostrogoths (474–526).

The·o·do·sius I (thē'ə-dō'shəs, -shē-əs).
A.D. 346?–395. Emperor of Rome (379–
395).

the·ol·o·gy (thē-ōl'ə-jē) *n., pl. -gies*. 1.
The study of the nature of God and relig-
ious truth. 2. A system or school of opin-
ions concerning God and religious
questions. —**the'o·lo·gi·an** (-ə-lō'jən) *n.*
—**the'o·log'i·cal** (-ə-lō'j-i-kəl) *adj.* —**the'o·**
log'i·cal·ly *adv.*

the·o·rem (thē'ər-əm, thīr'əm) *n.* 1. An
idea that is demonstrably true or is assumed
to be so. 2. *Math.* A proposition that has
been or is to be proved. [< Gk. *theōrēma*.]

the·o·ret·i·cal (thē'ə-rēt'i-kəl) also **the·o·**
ret·ic (-rēt'ik) *adj.* Of, relating to, or based
on theory. [Gk. *theōrētikos*.] —**the'o·**
ret'i·cal·ly *adv.*

Syns: *theoretical, abstract, academic,*
hypothetical adj.

the·o·re·ti·cian (thē'ər-ī-tīsh'ən, thīr'i-)
n. One who formulates, studies, or is ex-
pert in the theory of a science or an art.

the·o·rize (thē'ə-rīz', thīr'īz) *v.* -rized, -rīz-
ing. To formulate theories or a theory.
—**the'o·rīz'er**, **the'o·rīst** *n.*

the·o·ry (thē'ə-rē, thīr'ē) *n., pl. -ries*. 1.
Systematically organized knowledge, esp. a
set of assumptions or statements devised to
explain a phenomenon or class of phenom-
ena. 2. Abstract reasoning; speculation. 3.
A set of rules or principles for the study or
practice of an art or discipline. 4. An as-
sumption; conjecture. [< Gk. *theōria*.]

the·os·o·phy (thē-ōs'ə-fē) *n., pl. -phies*.
Religious philosophy or speculation about
the nature of the soul based on mystical in-
sight into the nature of God. [THEO- + Gk.
sophia, wisdom.] —**the'o·soph'ic** (-ə-sōf'-
ik), **the'o·soph'i·cal** *adj.* —**the·os'o·**
phist *n.*

ther·a·peu·tic (thēr'ə-pyōō'tik) *adj.* Hav-
ing healing or curative powers. [< Gk. *the-*
rapeuein, treat medically.] —**ther'a·peu'ti·**
cal·ly *adv.*

ther·a·peu·tics (thēr'ə-pyōō'tiks) *n.* (*takes*
sing. v.) Medical treatment of disease.
—**ther'a·peu'tist** *n.*

ther·a·py (thēr'ə-pē) *n., pl. -pies*. 1. Treat-
ment of illness or disability. 2. Psychother-
apy. [Gk. *therapeuein*, treat medically.]
—**ther'a·pist** *n.*

there (thâr) *adv.* 1. At or in that place. 2. To,
into, or toward that place. 3. At that stage,
moment, or point. —*pron.* Used to intro-
duce a clause or sentence: *There is hope*.
—*n.* That place or point. [< OE *thær*.]

Usage: The demonstrative forms *that*
there and *this here* are nonstandard.

there·a·bouts (thâr'ə-bouts') also **there·a·**
bout (-bout') *adv.* 1. Near that place. 2.
Approximately.

there·af·ter (thâr-ăf'tər) *adv.* From a spec-
ified time onward; from then on.

there·at (thâr-ăt') *adv.* 1. At that place;
there. 2. At that event; on account of that.

there·by (thâr-bī') *adv.* By that means.

there·fore (thâr'fōr', -fōr') *adv.* For that
reason; consequently.

there·from (thâr-frūm', -frōm') *adv.* From