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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'** *n.* *Law.* A dead person. [*< OFr. dēcedere, go away, die.*]

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

**v.** -ceived, -ceiv·ing. To say what is not true; mislead. [*< Lat. dēcevere, go away, die.*] -de·ceiv·er *n.* -de·

sēl'ə-rāt') *v.* -at·ed, -at·ing. To increase 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. dēcem, tenth month.*]

**1.** Of or last-  
**2.** Occurring every ten  
th anniversary. [*< Lat. dēcem, tenth month.*]

*adj.* **1.** Conforming to duty. **2.** Free from indebtedness. **3.** Meeting accepted standards. **4.** Kind or obliging. **5.** Modestly dressed. [*< OFr. dēcent, modestly dressed.*] -de·cent·cy *n.* -de·cent·ness *n.*

-sēn'trə-līz') *v.* -ized, -izing. To combine the functions of (a group of) among local authorities. 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 responsibility or state of being deceptible. [*< Lat. dēcipere, dēcept-*, de-

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

**1.** [*DE-* + (10-1): *decigram.* [*< Lat. dēci-*

**1.** A unit used to measure difference in power, usu. of electric signals, equal to common logarithm of the ratio. [*DECI-* + *bel*, after *ELL.*]

**id·ed, -cid·ing.** **1.** To remove uncertainty about. **2.** To determine the outcome of something. [*< 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 10<sup>33</sup>. **2.** *Chiefly Brit.* The cardinal number equal to 10<sup>60</sup>. [*< Lat. decem, ten + (M)ILLION.*] -de·cill·ion *adj.* -de·cill·ionth *adj.* & *n.*

**dec·i·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.*] -dec·i·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.

**dec·i·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.*] -dec·i·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.

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

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

**deck<sup>1</sup>** (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-.*]

**deck<sup>2</sup>** (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·c·len·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·c·len·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·clīn·a·ble *adj.* -de·clī·na·tion (dēk'lə-nā'shən) *n.* -de·clī·na·tion·al *adj.* -de·clīn·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, fō'-) *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 indu-  
**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.* W 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. **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.****



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

ˈi-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.

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

re.  
*n., pl. -ies.* 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'i-cal-ly adv.*

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

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

ˈj. -sī-er, -sī-est. Exces-  
 proper. [Perh. blend of  
 ] —*pris/si-ness n.*

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

ˈprīth'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  
 . 5. Not holding an official  
 i. 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.

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

ˈā'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* (ˈprɪv'ɪt) *n.* A shrub having opposite  
 leaves and clusters of white flowers, widely  
 used for hedges. [?]

*priv-i-lege* (ˈprɪv'ə-lɪj, ˈprɪv'lɪj) *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-legged* (ˈprɪv'ə-lɪjd, ˈprɪv'lɪjd) *adj.* 1.  
 Having privileges. 2. Confined to a chosen  
 group of individuals: *privileged informa-*  
*tion.*

*priv-y* (ˈprɪv'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. -ies.*  
 An outhouse. [*< Lat. privātus, private.*]

*prize*<sup>1</sup> (ˈprɪz) *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*<sup>2</sup> (ˈprɪz) *n.* Something, esp. an enemy  
 ship captured during wartime. [*< OFr.*  
*prise.*]

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

*prize-fight* (ˈprɪz'fɪt) *n.* A match fought be-  
 tween professional boxers for money.  
 —*prize/fight'er n.* —*prize/fight'ing n.*

*prize-win-ner* (ˈprɪz'wɪn'ər) *n.* One that  
 wins a prize. —*prize/win'ning adj.*

*pro*<sup>1</sup> (ˈprō) *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*<sup>2</sup> (ˈprō) *Informal. n., pl. pros.* 1. A profes-  
 sional. 2. An expert. —*adj.* Professional.

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

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

*prob. abbr.* Probable; probably.

*prob-a-bil-i-ty* (ˈprɒb'ə-bɪl'ɪ-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* (ˈprɒb'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-a-te* (ˈprɒb'āt') *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.*]

*pro-ba-tion* (ˈprɒ-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.*] —*pro-ba'tion-al adj.*  
 —*pro-ba'tion-ar'y adj.*

*pro-ba-tion-er* (ˈprɒ-bā'shə-nər) *n.* A per-  
 son on probation.

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

*probe* (prɒb) *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* (prɒb'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* (prɒb'lə-mät'ik) also *prob-*  
*lem-at-i-cal* (-i-kəl) *adj.* 1. Posing a prob-  
 lem. 2. Open to doubt; dubious or  
 unsettled. —*prob'lem-at'i-cal-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, C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, 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*<sup>1</sup>. 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'dɪŋ, 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*<sup>1</sup> (prɒs'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*<sup>2</sup> (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-ōk'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-ōk'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, -riz-  
ing. To formulate theories or a theory.  
—**the'o·riz'er**, **the'o·rist** *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