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at-o-my² (ät'ä-mē) *n.*, *pl.* **-mies**. [*< an atomy, respelling of ANATOMY. Archaic. A gaunt person or a skeleton.*]

a-to-nal (ä-tō'näl) *adj.* **Mus.** Having apparently no key or tonality. — **a-to'nal-ly** *adv.*

a-to-nal-ism (ä-tō'nä-liz'əm) *n.* **Mus.** 1. The lack of a tonal center or key as a principle of musical composition. 2. The theory of atonal composition.

a-to-nal-i-ty (ä'tō-näl'i-tē) *n.* A style of musical composition in which tonal center or key is disregarded.

at once *adv.* 1. At one time: **SIMULTANEOUSLY**. 2. Immediately *<left at once when we heard the news>*

a-tone (ä-tōn') *v.* **a-toned, a-ton-ing, a-tones**. [*ME atonen, to be reconciled < at one, in agreement: at, at + one, one. > — vi. 1. To make amends, as for a fault or sin. 2. Archaic. To agree. — vt. Archaic. 1. To expiate. 2. To reconcile or harmonize. 3. To conciliate: APPEASE. — a-ton/a-ble, a-tone/a-ble* *adj.* — **a-ton'er** *n.*

▲ word history: The derivation of *atone*, from *at* and *one*, has been obscured somewhat by the fairly recent change in the pronunciation of *one*. *One* used to be pronounced like *own*, but since the 17th century it has been pronounced like *won*, the past tense of *win*. The older pronunciation survives in *alone*, *lonely*, and *only* in addition to *atone* and its derivatives; the new pronunciation occurs in *once*.

a-tone-ment (ä-tōn'mənt) *n.* 1. Amends made for an injury or wrong: EXPIATION. 2. In the Hebrew Scriptures man's reconciliation with God after having transgressed the covenant. 3. **Atonement**. a. The redemptive life and death of Christ. b. The reconciliation of God and man thus brought about by Christ. 4. *Christian Science*. The radical obedience and purification, exemplified in the life of Jesus, by which humanity finds oneness with God. 5. *Archaic*. Reconciliation: concord.

a-ton-ic (ä-tōn'ik) *adj.* [*Fr. atonique < Gk. atonos. — see ATONY.*] 1. Not accented, as words and syllables. 2. *Pathol.* Relating to, caused by, or marked by atony. — *n.* An unaccented word, syllable, or sound. — **a-ton-ic-i-ty** (ät'ä-nis'i-tē) *n.*

at-o-ny (ät'ä-nē) *n.* [*Lat. atonia < Gk. < atonos, slack: a-, without + tonos, stretching, tone.*] 1. Insufficient muscular tone. 2. Lack of accent or stress in phonetics.

a-top (ä-tōp') *adv.* On or at the top. — *prep.* On top of. — **a-top'** *adj.*

-ator *suff.* [*ME -atour < OFr. < Lat. -ator: -atus, -ate + -or, -or.*] One that acts in a given manner *< radiator >*

-atory *suff.* [*ME < Lat. -atorius: -atus, -ate + -orius, -ory.*] 1. a. Of or relating to *<perspiratory>* b. Tending to *<amendatory>* 2. One that is connected with *<reformatory>*

ATP (ä'tē'pē') *n.* [*A(DENOSINE) T(RI)P(HOSPHATE).*] An adenosine-derived nucleotide, C₁₀H₁₆N₅O₁₃P₃, that supplies energy to cells through its conversion to ADP.

ATP-ase (ä'tē'pē'äs) *n.* An enzyme that hydrolyzes ATP.

at-ra-bil-i-ous (ät'rä-bil'yās) *also* **at-ra-bil-i-ar** (-bil'ē-är) *adj.* [*< Lat. atra bilis, black bile, transl. of Gk. melankhōlia. — see MELANCHOLY.*] 1. Inclined to melancholy. 2. Ill-tempered: surly. — **at-ra-bil-i-ous-ness** *n.*

A-treus (ä'trōös, ä'trē-äs) *n.* [*Gk. Myth.*] A king of Mycenae, father of Agamemnon and Menelaus.

a-tri-a (ä'trē-ä) *n.* *var. pl.* of **atrium**.

a-tri-o-ven-tric-u-lar (ä'trē-ō-vēn-trik'yä-lär) *adj.* Of or relating to the atria and the ventricles of the heart.

a-trip (ä-trip') *adj.* *ex* *adv.* Just clear of the bottom, as an anchor.

a-tri-um (ä'trē-əm) *n.*, *pl.* **a-tri-a** (ä'trē-ä) or **-ums**. [*Lat. atrium.*] 1. a. A central courtyard, as in ancient Roman houses. b. A multistoried central court, as in a hotel, often having a skylight. 2. A bodily cavity or chamber, as in the heart. — **a-tri-al** *adj.*

a-tro-cious (ä-trō'shəs) *adj.* [*< Lat. atrox, atroc, cruel.*] 1. Extremely evil or cruel: **MONSTROUS** *<an atrocious felony>* 2. Exceptionally bad: **ABOMINABLE** *<atrocious cooking>* *<atrocious rudeness>* — **a-tro-cious-ly** *adv.* — **a-tro-cious-ness** *n.*

a-troc-i-ty (ä-trōs'i-tē) *n.*, *pl.* **-ties**. 1. Atrocious condition, quality, or behavior. 2. An atrocious action, situation, or object: **OUTRAGE**.

at-ro-phy (ät'rä-fē) *n.*, *pl.* **-phies**. [*Lat. atrophia < Gk. < atrophos, ill-nourished: a-, without + trophē, food.*] 1. *Pathol.* The emaciation or wasting away of bodily tissues or organs. 2. A diminution or degeneration *<moral atrophy>* — *v.* **-phied, -phy-ing, -phies**.

— *vt.* To affect with atrophy. — *vi.* To waste away: **WITHER**. — **a-troph'ic** (ä-trōf'ik), **at-ro-phous** *adj.*

at-ro-pine (ät'rä-pēn', -pīn) *also* **at-ro-pin** (-pīn) *n.* [*G. Atropin < NLat. Atropa, genus name of belladonna < Gk. atropos, unchangeable.*] An extremely poisonous, bitter, crystalline alkaloid, C₁₇H₂₃NO₃, derived from belladonna and related plants and used to dilate the pupil of the eye and as an anesthetic and antispasmodic.

At-ro-pos (ät'rä-pōs', -pās) *n.* [*Gk. < atropos, inexorable.*] *Gk. Myth.* One of the three Fates.

at-tach (ä-täch') *v.* **-tached, -tach-ing, -tach-es**. [*ME attachen*

(personnel) to a military unit on a temporary basis. 8. *Law*. To seize (persons or property) by legal writ. — *vi.* To adhere. — **at-tach'a-ble** *adj.* — **at-tach'er** *n.*

★ syns: ATTACH, AFFIX, CLIP, CONNECT, COUPLE, FASTEN, FIX, MOOR SECURE *v. core meaning:* to join one thing to another *<the hinges to which the door is attached>* **ant:** DETACH

at-ta-ché (ät'ä-shä', ä-tä'shä') *n.* [*Fr. < p.part. of attacher, to attach.*] One officially assigned to the staff of a diplomatic mission to serve in a given capacity *<a commercial attaché>*

attaché case *n.* A briefcase resembling a small suitcase, with hinges and flat sides.

at-tach-ment (ä-täch'mənt) *n.* 1. The act of attaching or condition of being attached. 2. Something, as a tie, band, or fastening, that joins one thing to another. 3. A bond of affection or loyalty. 4. A supplementary part: **ACCESSORY** *<a vacuum cleaner with attachments>* 5. *Law*. a. The legal seizure of a person or property. b. The writ ordering an attachment.

at-tack (ä-täk') *v.* **-tacked, -tack-ing, -tacks**. [*Fr. attaquer < OFr. < OItal. attaccare, of Germanic orig. > — vt. 1. To set upon with violent force. 2. To criticize strongly or in a hostile manner. 3. To start work on with purpose and vigor <attack a backlog of orders> 4. To begin to affect harmfully. — vi. To launch an attack. — n. 1. The act of attacking: **ASSAULT**. 2. The occurrence or onset of a disease. 3. The initial movement in a task or undertaking. 4. *Mus.* The way in which a passage or phrase is begun. — **at-tack'er** *n.**

★ syns: ATTACK, ASSAIL, ASSAULT, BESET, HIT, STRIKE *v. core meaning:* to set upon with violent force *<enemy troops attacking our positions>*

at-tain (ä-tän') *v.* **-tained, -tain-ing, -tains**. [*ME ataignen < OFr. ataindre, to reach to < Lat. attingere: ad-, to + tangere, to touch.*] — *vt.* 1. To gain or accomplish by mental or physical effort *<attain an objective>* 2. To arrive at *<attained the mountaintop>* — *vi.* To succeed in gaining or accomplishing *<attained to the presidency>* — **at-tain'a-bil'i-ty, at-tain'a-ble-ness** *n.* — **at-tain'a-ble** *adj.*

at-tain-der (ä-tän'dər) *n.* [*ME attendre, conviction < OFr. ataindre, to convict, affect. — see ATTAIN.*] *Law*. 1. The loss of all civil rights legally consequent to a death sentence or to outlawry, esp. for treason. 2. *Archaic*. Dishonor.

at-tain-ment (ä-tän'mənt) *n.* 1. The act of attaining or condition of being attained. 2. Something attained.

at-taint (ä-tänt') *vt.* **-tainted, -taint-ing, -taints**. [*ME ataynten < OFr. ataint, p.part. of ataindre, to affect. — see ATTAIN.*] 1. *Law*. To condemn by a sentence of attainder. 2. *Archaic*. To disgrace.

3. *Obs.* To accuse. — *n.* 1. Attainder. 2. *Archaic*. A disgrace: stigma. **at-tar** (ät'är) *n.* [*Pers. atir, perfumed < Ar. utūr, pl. of 'itr, perfume.*] A fragrant essential oil or perfume obtained from the petals of flowers, as roses.

at-tempt (ä-tēpt') *vt.* **-tempt-ed, -tempt-ing, -tempts**. [*ME attempten < OFr. attempter < Lat. attemptare: ad-, to + temptare, to test.*] 1. To try to do, make, or achieve. 2. *Archaic*. To tempt. 3. *Archaic*. To attack in order to subdue. — *n.* 1. An effort or try. 2. An attack or assault, as on one's life. — **at-tempt'a-ble** *adj.* — **at-tempt'er** *n.*

at-tend (ä-tēnd') *v.* **-tend-ed, -tend-ing, -tends**. [*ME attenden < OFr. attendre < Lat. attendere, to heed: ad-, to + tendere, to stretch.*] — *vt.* 1. To be present at. 2. To accompany as a circumstance or follow as a result *<The announcement was attended by cheers>* 3. a. To accompany or wait on as an attendant or servant. b. To take care of (e.g., a patient). 4. To take charge of. 5. To listen to: **HEED**. 6. *Archaic*. To wait for: **EXPECT**. — *vi.* 1. To be present. 2. To apply or direct oneself *<attended to the difficulty>* 3. To pay attention: **HEED**. 4. To remain ready to serve: **WAIT** *<attend upon the queen>* 5. *Obs.* To delay or wait. — **at-tend'er** *n.*

at-ten-dance (ä-tēn'dəns) *n.* 1. The act of attending. 2. Those that attend a function.

at-ten-dant (ä-tēn'dənt) *n.* 1. One who attends or serves another. 2. One who is present. 3. One that accompanies: **CONCOMITANT**. — *adj.* Accompanying or following as a result *<the flu and attendant miseries>* — **at-ten-dant-ly** *adv.*

at-ten-tion (ä-tēn'shən) *n.* [*ME attencioun < Lat. attentio < at-tendere, to heed. — see ATTEND.*] 1. Close or careful observation or heed: mental concentration. 2. The ability or power to concentrate mentally. 3. Observant consideration: **NOTICE** *<Your complaint has come to my attention>* 4. Courtesy or considerate regard, as for others' feelings. 5. **ATTENTIONS**. Acts of courtesy, consideration, or gallantry, esp. by a suitor. 6. A military posture, with the body erect, eyes to the front, arms at the sides, and heels together. — Used as a command. — **at-ten-tion-al** *adj.*

attention deficit disorder *n.* A childhood syndrome characterized by hyperactivity and short attention span.

attention key *n.* *Computer Sci.* A function key on terminals that