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atomy² • attention key

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

a•to•nal (ă-tō'nal) *adj.* *Mus.* Having apparently no key or tonality.

a•to•nal•ly *adv.*

a•to•nal•ism (ă-tō'nal-iz'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 (ă-tō'nal-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 (ă-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 excape. 2. To reconcile or harmonize. 3. To conciliate : APPEASE. —**a•ton'ə•ble**, **a•ton'ə•ble adj.** —**a•ton'ə•r n.**

A 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*, *lone*, *lonely*, and *only* in addition to *atone* and its derivatives; the new pronunciation occurs in *once*.

a•to•ne•ment (ă-tōn'mēnt) *n.* 1. Amendments 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 (ă-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** (ă-tōn'ik-i-tē) *n.*

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

a•top (ătōp') *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 + *-oriūs*, -ory.] 1. a. Of or relating to <*perspiratory*> b. Tending to <*amendatory*> 2. One that is connected with <*reformatory*>

ATP (ăt'ĕ pĕt') *n.* [*A(DENOSINE) T(RIP(HOSPATE))*.] An adenosine-derived nucleotide, $C_{10}H_{16}N_5O_{13}P_3$, that supplies energy to cells through its conversion to ADP.

ATP-ase (ăt'ĕ-pĕs') *n.* An enzyme that hydrolyzes ATP.

a•tra•bil•ious (ăt'ră-bil'yoos) *also a•tra•bil•i•ar* (ăbil'ē-ər) *adj.* [*< Lat. atra bilis*, black bile, *transl.* of Gk. *melankholia*. — see MELANCHOLY.] 1. Inclined to melancholy. 2. Ill-tempered : surly. —**a•tra•bil•i•ous•ness** *n.*

A•treus (ăt'rōōs', ăt'rē-əs) *n.* [*Gk.*] *Gk. Myth.* A king of Mycenae, father of Agamemnon and Menelaus.

a•tri•a (ăt'rē-ə) *n.* *var. pl.* of ATRIUM.

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

a•trip (ăt'rip') *adj.* & *adv.* Just clear of the bottom, as an anchor.

a•tri•um (ăt'rē-əm) *n.*, *pl.* **a•tri•a** (ăt'rē-ə) 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 (ăt'rō'shəs) *adj.* [*< Lat. atroc, 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•tro•ci•ty (ăt'rōs'itē) *n.*, *pl.* **-ties**. 1. Atrocious condition, quality, or behavior. 2. An atrocious action, situation, or object : OUTRAGE.

a•tro•phy (ăt'rō-fē) *n.*, *pl.* **-phies**. [*LLat. atrophy* < Gk. <*atrophos*, ill-nourished : *a*-without + *trōphē*, 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•tro•phic** (ăt'rōf'ik), **a•tro•phous** *adj.*

a•tro•pine (ăt'rō-pēn', -pin) *also a•tro•pin* (ăpin) *n.* [*G. Atropin* < NLat. *Atropa*, genus name of belladonna < Gk. *atropos*, unchangeable.] An extremely poisonous, bitter, crystalline alkaloid, $C_{17}H_{23}NO_3$, derived from belladonna and related plants and used to dilate the pupil of the eye and as an anesthetic and antispasmodic.

a•tro•pos (ăt'rō-pōs', -pas) *n.* [*Gk.* < *atropos*, inexorable.] *Gk. Myth.* One of the three Fates.

a•tach (ătāch') *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. —**a•tach'ə•ble** *adj.* —**a•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

a•tach•ché (ăt'ă-shă', ă-tă-shă') *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.

a•tach•ment (ătāch'mēnt) *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.

a•tack (ătāk') *v.* **-tacked**, **-tack•ing**, **-tacks**. [*Fr. attaquer* < OFr. < Oltal. *attacare*, 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 harmfuly. —*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. —**a•tack'ə•r n.**

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

a•tai•n (ătān') *v.* **-tained**, **-tain•ing**, **-tains**. [*ME atteignen* < 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> —**a•tai•n'ə•bil•i•ty**, **a•tai•n'ə•ble•ness** *n.* —**a•tai•n'ə•ble adj.**

a•tai•n•der (ătān'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.

a•tai•n•ment (ătān'mēnt) *n.* 1. The act of attaining or condition of being attained. 2. Something attained.

a•tai•n (ătān') *vt.* **-tai•n•ed**, **-tai•n•ing**, **-tai•n•ts**. [*ME ataynien* < 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.

a•tar (ăt'ər) *n.* [*Pers. 'atir*, perfumed < Ar. 'atir, pl. of 'it, perfume.] A fragrant essential oil or perfume obtained from the petals of flowers, as roses.

a•tem•pt (ătēmpt') *vt.* **-tempt•ed**, **-tempt•ing**, **-tempt•s**. [*ME attempten* < OFr. *attempter* < Lat. *attemptrare* : *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. —**a•tempt'ə•ble adj.** —**a•tempt'ə•r n.**

a•tend (ătēnd') *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. —**a•tend'ə•r n.**

a•tend•ance (ătēn'dəns) *n.* 1. The act of attending. 2. Those that attend a function.

a•tend•ant (ătēn'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> —**a•tend'ə•ntly** *adv.*

a•tend•tion (ătēn'shən) *n.* [*ME attenciouen* < Lat. *attentio* < *attendere*, 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. —**a•tend'ə•ntial** *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