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WORDS
YOU NEED

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- Helpful guidance on word usage
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Contents

Preface	vii
Explanatory Notes	ix
Abbreviations in This Work	xvii
Pronunciation Symbols	xviii
A Dictionary of the English Language	1
Foreign Words & Phrases	589
Biographical Names	597
Geographical Names	610
Brief History of English	642
English Word Roots	645
Confused and Misused Words	656
Guide to Common Verb Collocations	659
Irregular English Verbs	666
Basic English Grammar	670
Handbook of Style	681
Documentation of Sources	693
Signs and Symbols	697
An Overview of the Internet	699

legion • lessen

tion of ex-servicemen — **le-gion-ary** \jə-'ner-ē\ *n* — **le-gion-naire** \lɛ-'jə-'nair\ *n*

legion *adj*: MANY, NUMEROUS

Legionnaires' disease also **Legionnaire's disease**

\-ner-z\ *n*: a lobar pneumonia caused by a bacterium

legis *abbr* legislation; legislative; legislature

leg-is-late \lɛ-'jəs-'lāt\ *vb* -lat-ēd; -lat-ing: to make or enact laws; also: to bring about by legislation — **leg-is-la-tor** \-lā-'tər\ *n*

leg-is-la-tion \lɛ-'jəs-'lā-shən\ *n* 1: the action of legisla-tion 2: laws made by a legislative body

leg-is-la-tive \lɛ-'jəs-'jā-tiv\ *adj* 1: having the power of legisla-tion 2: of or relating to a legislature or legisla-tion

leg-is-la-ture \lɛ-'jəs-'lā-čər\ *n*: an organized body of persons having the authority to make laws

le-git \lɪ-'jɪt\ *adj*, *slang*: LEGITIMATE

le-git-i-mate \lɪ-'jɪ-tə-'mæt\ *adj* 1: lawfully begotten 2: GENUINE 3: LAWFUL 4: conforming to recognized principles or accepted rules or standards — **le-git-i-ma-cy** \-mə-'sē\ *n* — **le-git-i-mate-ly** *adv*

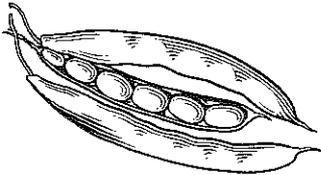
le-git-i-mate \lɪ-'mæt\ *vb*: to make legitimate

le-git-i-mise *Brit var* of LEGITIMIZE

le-git-i-mize \lɪ-'jɪ-tə-'mīz\ *vb* -mīz-ed; -mīz-ing: LEGIT-I-MATE

leg-man \lɛg-'mæn\ *n* 1: a reporter assigned usu. to gather information 2: an assistant who gathers information and runs errands

le-gume \lɛ-'gyʊm, lɪ-'gyʊm\ *n* [F] 1: any of a large fam-ily of plants having fruits that are dry pods and split when ripe and including important food and forage plants (as beans and clover); also: the part (as seeds or pods) of a legume used as food 2: the pod of a legume — **le-gu-mi-nous** \lɪ-'gyʊ-mə-'nəs\ *adj*



legume 2

lei \lā, 'lā-'ē\ *n*: a wreath or necklace usu. of flowers

lei \lā\ *pl* of LEU

lei-sure \lɛ-'zhər, 'lɛ-, 'lā-'n\ *n* 1: time free from work or duties 2: EASE; also: CONVENIENCE + **Synonyms** RE-LAXATION, REST, REPOSE — **lei-sure-ly** *adj* or *adv*

leit-mo-tif also **leit-mo-tiv** \lɪt-'mō-'tɪf\ *n* [G] *Leitmotiv*, fr. *leiten* to lead + *Motiv* motive): a dominant recurring theme

lek \lek\ *n*, *pl* **leks** or **le-ke** or **leké** \lɛ-'kə\ — see MONEY table

lem-ming \lɛ-'mɪŋ\ *n* [Norw]: any of various short-tailed rodents found mostly in northern regions and noted for recurrent mass migrations

lem-on \lɛ-'mən\ *n* 1: an acid yellow usu. nearly oblong citrus fruit; also: a citrus tree that bears lemons 2: something (as an automobile) unsatisfactory or defective — **lem-ony** *adj*

lem-on-ade \lɛ-'mā-'nād\ *n*: a beverage of lemon juice, sugar, and water

lem-on curd *n*: a custard made with lemon juice, butter, sugar, and eggs

lem-on-grass \lɛ-'mən-'gras\ *n*: a tropical Asian grass grown for its lemon-scented foliage used as a seasoning

lem-pi-ra \lɛm-'pɪ-rə\ *n* — see MONEY table

lem-mur \lɛ-'mər\ *n*: any of various arboreal primates largely of Madagascar that have large eyes, very soft woolly fur, and a long furry tail

Len-a-pe \lɛ-'nā-pē, lə-'nā-pē\ *n*, *pl* **Lenape** or **Lenapes**: DELAWARE

lend \lend\ *vb* **lent** \lent\; **lend-ing** 1: to give for temporary use on condition that the same or its equivalent be returned 2: AFFORD, FURNISH 3: ACCOMMODATE — **lend-er** *n*

lend-lease \-'lɛs\ *n*: the transfer of goods and services to

an ally to aid in a common cause with payment made by a return of the items or their use in the cause or by a sim-ilar transfer of other goods and services

length \lɛŋθ\ *n* 1: the longer or longest dimension of an object; also: a measured distance 2: duration or extent in time or space 3: the length of something taken as a unit of measure 4: a single piece of a series of pieces that may be joined together (a ~ of pipe) — at length 1: in full 2: FINALLY

length-en \lɛŋ-'θən\ *vb*: to make or become longer + **Synonyms** EXTEND, ELONGATE, PROLONG, PROTRACT

length-wise \lɛŋθ-'wɪz\ *adv*: in the direction of the length — **length-wise** *adj*

lengthy \lɛŋ-'θi\ *adj* **length-i-er**; -**est** 1: protracted ex-cessively 2: EXTENDED, LONG (a ~ journey)

le-nient \lɛ-'nɛ-ənt, -nɪ-ənt\ *adj*: of mild and tolerant dis-position or effect + **Synonyms** INDULGENT, FORBEAR-ING, MERCIFUL, TOLERANT — **le-ni-en-cy** \lɛ-'nɛ-ən-'sē, -nɪ-ən-'sē\ *n* — **le-ni-en-ty** *adv*

len-i-tive \lɛ-'nā-tɪv\ *adj*: alleviating pain or harshness

len-i-ty \lɛ-'nā-ti\ *n*: LENIENCY

lens \lɛnz\ *n* [L *lent*, *lens* lentil; so called fr. the shape of a convex lens] 1: a curved piece of glass or plastic used singly or combined in an optical instrument for forming an image; also: a device for focusing radiation other than light 2: a transparent body in the eye that focuses light rays on receptors at the back of the eye

Lent \lent\ *n*: a 40-day period of penitence and fasting observed from Ash Wednesday to Easter by many churches — **Lent-en** \lɛn-'tən\ *adj*

lent-il \lɛn-'tɪl\ *n*: a Eurasian annual legume grown for its flat edible seeds and for fodder; also: its seed

Leo \lɛ-'ō\ *n* [L, lit., lion] 1: a zodiacal constellation be-tween Cancer and Virgo usu. pictured as a lion 2: the 5th sign of the zodiac in astrology; also: one born under this sign

le-one \lɛ-'ōn\ *n*, *pl* **leones** or **leone** — see MONEY table

le-o-nine \lɛ-'ō-'nɪn\ *adj*: of, relating to, or resembling a lion

leop-ard \lɛ-'pərd\ *n*: a large usu. tawny and black-spot-ted cat of southern Asia and Africa

le-o-tard \lɛ-'ō-'tərd\ *n*: a close-fitting garment worn esp. by dancers and for exercise

lep-er \lɛ-'pər\ *n* 1: a person affected with leprosy 2: OUTCAST

lep-re-chaun \lɛ-'prə-'kæn\ *n*: a mischievous elf of Irish folklore

lep-ro-sy \lɛ-'prə-'sē\ *n*: a chronic bacterial disease marked esp. if not treated by slow-growing swellings with deformity and loss of sensation of affected parts — **lep-ro-sy** \-prə-'sɪ\ *adj*

lep-tin \lɛp-'tɪn\ *n*: a hormone that is produced by fat-containing cells and plays a role in body weight regula-tion

lep-ton \lɛp-'tən\ *n*, *pl* **lep-ta** \-'tā\ : a former monetary unit equal to 1/100 drachma

les-bi-an \lɛz-'bi-ən\ [fr. the reputed homosexual group associated with the poet Sappho of Lesbos] : a woman who is a homosexual — **lesbian** *adj* — **les-bi-an-ism** \-ə-'nɪ-zəm\ *n*

lese maj-es-té or **lese maj-es-ty** \lɛz-'mā-'jə-'stē, 'lɛz-'lɛz-\ [MF *lesse majesté*, fr. L *laesa majestas*, lit., injured majesty] : an offense violating the dignity of a sovereign

le-sion \lɛ-'zhən\ *n*: an abnormal structural change in the body due to injury or disease; esp: one clearly marked off from healthy tissue around it

less \les\ *adj*, *comparative* of **LITTLE** 1: FEWER (<~ than six) 2: of lower rank, degree, or importance 3: SMALL-ER; also: more limited in quantity

less *adv*, *comparative* of **LITTLE**: to a lesser extent or de-gree

less *n*, *pl* **less** 1: a smaller portion 2: something of less importance

less *prep*: diminished by: MINUS (list price ~ the dis-count)

-less \les\ *adj* *suffix* 1: destitute of: not having (child-less) 2: unable to be acted on or to act (in a specified way) (dauntless)

les-see \lɛ-'sē\ *n*: a tenant under a lease

less-en \lɛ-'sən\ *vb*: to make or become less + **Synonyms** DECREASE, DIMINISH, DWINDLE, ABATE