



**RANDOM HOUSE
WEBSTER'S
COLLEGE
DICTIONARY**

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**RANDOM HOUSE
NEW YORK**

Random House Webster's College Dictionary
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level crossing to lexis

unbroken by irregularities. **20.** the interconnected horizontal mine workings at a particular elevation or depth: *the 1500-foot level.* —*v.t.* **21.** to make (a surface) level, even, or flat; make horizontal. **22.** to raise or lower to a particular level or position. **23.** to bring (something) to the level of the ground: *to level trees.* **24. Informal.** to knock down (a person). **25.** to make equal, as in status or condition. **26.** to make even or uniform, as coloring. **27.** to aim or point (a weapon, criticism, etc.) at a mark or objective. **28.** to find the relative elevation of different points in (land), as with a surveyor's level. —*v.i.* **29.** to bring things or persons to a common level. **30.** to aim a weapon, criticism, etc., at a mark or objective. **31.** to speak truthfully and openly (often fol. by *with*). **32.** a. to take a level in surveying. b. to use a leveling instrument. **33. level off, a.** (of an aircraft) to maintain a constant altitude after a climb or descent. b. to become stable; reach a constant or limit. c. to make even or smooth. —*Idiom.* **34. find one's (own) level,** to attain a position or status that matches one's ability. **35. one's level best,** one's very best; one's utmost. **36. on the level,** honest; sincere; reliable. [1300-50; ME, var. of *livel* < MF < VL **libellum*, for L *libella* plummet line, level, dim. of *libra* balance, scales (see CASTLE)] —*lev/ely, adv.* —*lev/el·ness, n.*

lev/el cross'ing, n. Brit. GRADE CROSSING. [1835-45]

lev/el·er (lev'ə lar), *n.* **1.** a person or thing that levels. **2.** a person or thing that promotes the abolition of inequalities or other distinctions between people. Also, *esp. Brit., leveller.* [1590-1600]

lev/el·head·ed (lev'əl hed'id), *adj.* having common sense and sound judgment; sensible. [1875-80, Amer.] —*lev/el·head·ed·ly, adv.* —*lev/el·head·ed·ness, n.*

lev/eling rod/, n. ROD (def. 15). [1900-05]

lev/el·er (lev'ə lar), *n.* **1. Chiefly Brit.** LEVELER. **2. (cap.)** a member of a radical group organized during the English Civil War, advocating political equality and religious tolerance. [1590-1600]

lev/el play'ing field/, n. a state of equality; an equal opportunity. [1980-85]

Le·ven (lē'vən), *n.* **Loch,** a lake in E Scotland: ruins of a castle in which Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned.

lev·er (lev'ər, lē'vər), *n.* **1.** a rigid bar that pivots about one point and that is used to move an object at a second point by a force applied at a third. **2.** a means or agency of persuading or of achieving an end. —*v.t.* **3.** to move or lift with or as if with a lever. —*v.i.* **4.** to use a lever. [1250-1300; ME *leverre*, *levour* for **lever* < AF; OF *levier* = *lev(er)* to lift (< L *levāre* to lighten, lift) + *-ier* -IER']

levers (def. 1)



lev·er·age (lev'ər ij, lev'rij; lē'vər ij, -vrīj), *n., v., -aged, -ag·ing.* —*n.* **1.** the action of a lever. **2.** the mechanical advantage or power gained by using a lever. **3.** power or ability to act effectively or to influence people. **4.** the use of a small initial investment to gain a relatively high return. —*v.t.* **5.** to exert power or influence on. **6.** to provide with leverage. **7.** to speculate in (invested funds) by using leverage. [1715-25]

lev/eraged buy'out, n. the purchase of a company with borrowed money, using the company's assets as collateral, and often discharging the debt and realizing a profit by liquidating the company. *Abbr.:* LBO

lev·er·et (lev'ər it), *n.* a young hare. [1400-50; late ME < AF, dim. of *levre*, OF *lievre* < L *leporum*, acc. of *lepus* hare; see -ET]

Le·ver·ku·sen (lē'vər koo'zən), *n.* a city in North Rhine-Westphalia, in W Germany, on the Rhine. 161,832.

Lev·er·tov (lev'ər tōf', -tof'), *n.* **Denise,** 1923-97, U.S. poet, born in England.

Le·vi (lē'vī, lā'vē), *n.* **1.** a son of Jacob and Leah. Gen. 29:34. **2.** one of the 12 tribes of Israel, traditionally descended from him. **3.** original name of MATTHEW (def. 1). **4.** a Levite.

lev·i·a·ble (lev'ē ə bəl), *adj.* **1.** capable of being levied. **2.** liable or subject to a levy. [1475-85]

lev·i·a·than (li vī'ə than), *n.* **1. (often cap.)** (in the Bible) a sea monster. **2.** any huge marine animal, as the whale. **3.** something of immense size or power. [1350-1400; ME < LL < Heb *liyūyāthān*]

lev·i·er (lev'ē ə r), *n.* a person who levies. [1485-95]

lev·i·gate (lev'ī gāt'), *v.t., -gat·ed, -gat·ing.* to rub, grind, or reduce to a fine powder, with or without the addition of a liquid. [1605-15; < L *levigatus*, ptp. of *levigare* to smooth, pulverize = *lev(is)* smooth + *-igare* *v.* suffix (cf. FUMIGATE)] —*lev'igat'ion, n.*

Le·vi·Mon·tal·ci·ni (lev'ē mon'tal chē'nē, lā'vē-), *n.* Rita, born 1909, Italian neurophysiologist: Nobel prize for physiology or medicine 1986.

lev·i·rate (lev'ər it, ə rāt', lē'vər it, -və rāt'), *n.* **Judaism.** the custom of marriage between a man and his brother's widow, required in Biblical law under certain circumstances. Deut. 25:5-10. [1715-25; < L *levir* husband's brother (akin to OE *tācor*, Gk *dāēr*, Skt *devar*) + -ATE'] —*lev·i·rat·ic* (lev'ə rat'ik, lē'və-), *lev'irat'ic·al, adj.*

Le·vi's (lē'viz), (*used with a pl. v.*) **Trademark.** a brand of jeans, esp. blue jeans.

Lē·vi·Strauss (lā'vē strous'), *n.* **Claude,** born 1908, French anthropologist, born in Belgium: founder of structural anthropology.

lev·i·tate (lev'ī tā't), *v., -tat·ed, -tat·ing.* —*v.i.* **1.** to rise or float in the air, esp. as a result of a supernatural power. —*v.t.* **2.** to cause to

rise or float in the air. [1665-75; LEVIT(y) + -ATE', ON *levitate*] —*lev'it·a'tion, n.* —*lev'it·a'tor, n.* —*lev'it·a'tor·y, n.* **Le·vite** (lē'vīt), *n.* **1.** a member of the tribe of Levi, appointed to assist the Temple priests. **2.** a descendant of Levi, having honorific religious duties. [1250-1300; ME < Gk *Leuitēs* Levite < *Leuf* (< Heb *Lēvī* Levi, Levite)] —*lev'it·ic·al* (li vit'ī kəl), *adj.* **1.** of or pertaining to the Levites or pertaining to Leviticus or the law (*Levitic·al law'*) commandments. [1525-35] —*lev'it·ic·al·ly, adv.*

Le·vit·ic·us (li vit'ī kəs), *n.* the third book of the Bible, concerned chiefly concerning the priests and Jewish ceremonial observances. *Leviticus (liber)* Levitical (book) < Gk *Leuitikos*. See LEVITICUS.

Lev·it·town (lev'it toun'), *n.* a town on W Long Island, N.Y. 57,045.

lev·i·ty (lev'ī tē), *n., pl. -ties.* **1.** lightness of mind, character, or behavior, esp. when inappropriate. **2.** an instance or exhibition of fickleness. [1555-65; < L *levitās* < *levis* light]

Lev·kas (lēf kās'), *n.* an island in the Ionian group, off the coast of Greece. 114 sq. mi. (295 sq. km).

levo·, a combining form meaning "left," "levorotatory" [repr. L *laevus* left, on the left; see -O-]

le·vo·do·pa (lē'və dō'pə), *n.* L-DOPA. [1965-70]

le·vo·ro·ta·to·ry (lē'və rō'tə tōr'ē, -tōr'ē) also *le·vo·ro·tā·to·ry* (-rō'tə rē), *adj.* turning to the left, esp. rotating to the left as a result of polarization of light: *levorotatory crystals.* *Symbol:* l

lev·y (lev'ē), *n., pl. levies, v., lev·ied, lev·y·ing.* —*n.* **1.** a tax or collecting, as of a tax, by authority or force. **2.** the troops or collected. **3.** the conscription of troops. **4.** the troops conscripted. —*v.t.* **5.** to impose (a tax, fine, etc.): *to levy a duty on* (a tax) **6.** to conscript (troops). **7.** to start or wage (war). —*v.i.* **8.** to attach property by judicial order. [1375-1425; late ME *levē* use of fem. ptp. of *lever* to raise; see LEVEE']

lewd (lōd), *adj. -er, -est.* **1.** inclined to, characterized by, or tending to lust or lechery; lascivious. **2.** obscene or indecent, as language. **3.** Obs. [bef. 900; ME *leud*, *lewed*, OE *lēwede* lewd] —*lewd'ly, adv.* —*lewd'ness, n.*

Lew·es (lōw'is), *n.* a city in East Sussex, in SE England. 84,400.

Lew·is (lōw'is), *n.* a device for lifting a dressed stone, consisting of a number of pieces fitting together to fill a dovetailed recess in the stone. [1730-40; perh. after the surname of the inventor]

Lew·is (lōw'is), *n.* **1. (Cecil) Day, DAY-Lewis, Cecil.** **2. Clive Hamilton** ("Clive Hamilton"), 1898-1963, English novelist and dramatist. **3. Lewis** (born 1918, U.S. physician: Nobel prize 1995. **4. Lewis** (born 1885-1951, U.S. writer: Nobel prize 1930. **5. John L. Lewis** (born 1869, U.S. labor leader. **6. Meriwether**, 1774-1809, U.S. explorer and leader of the Lewis and Clark expedition 1804-06. **7. Lewis** (born 1884-1957, English writer and painter, born in the U.S.). **Lew·is·sham** (lōw'is sham), *n.* a borough of Greater London. 231,600.

lewis·ite (lōw'is sīt'), *n.* a pale yellow, odorless, crystalline solid, C₂H₃ASCl₄, used as a vesicant in World War I. [1920-25; after C. H. Lewis (1878-1943), U.S. chemist who developed it]

Lew·is with Har'ris, n. the northernmost island of the Hebrides, in NW Scotland. 825 sq. mi. (2135 sq. km). Also called **Lewis and Har'ris.**

lex (leks), *n., pl. le·ges (lē'jēz; Lat. le'ges). **LAW'**. [1490-1500] —*lex'ic·al, 1. lexical, 2. lexicon.**

lex·eme (lek'sēm), *n.* a minimal lexical unit in a language, or an idiomatic phrase, esp. an abstract form underlying inflected forms. [1935-40; LEX(ICAL) or LEX(ICON) + -EME]

lex·i·cal (lek'sī kəl), *adj.* **1.** of or pertaining to the vocabulary of a language, esp. as distinguished from its grammatical or syntactic aspects. **2.** of, pertaining to, or of the nature of a dictionary. [1830-40] —*lex'ic·al·i·ty, n.* —*lex'ic·al·ly, adv.*

lex'ic·al mean'ing, n. the meaning of a base morpheme independent of its use within a construction. Compare **CONTEXTUAL MEANING**. [1930-35]

lexicog·, **1.** lexicographer. **2.** lexicographic. **3.** lexicography. —*lex'ic·og·ra·pher* (lek'sī kog'rə far), *n.* a writer, editor, or compiler of a dictionary. [1650-60; < LGk *lexikographos*. See -GRAPHER]

lex·i·cog·ra·phy (lek'sī kog'rə fē), *n.* **1.** the writing or compiling of dictionaries. **2.** the principles and procedures of writing, editing, or compiling dictionaries. [1670-80]

graph'ic (-kə graf'ik), *lex'icog·graph'ic·al, adj.* —*lex'icog·ra·ph'ic·al·ly, adv.*

lex·i·col·o·gy (lek'sī kol'ə jē), *n.* the study of the formation and use of words. [1820-30] —*lex'ic·ol·og'ic·al, lex'ic·ol·og'ic·al, adj.* —*lex'ic·ol·og'ist, n.*

lex·i·con (lek'sī kon', -kan), *n., pl. -ca* (-kə), *-cons.* **1.** a dictionary, esp. of Greek, Latin, or Hebrew. **2.** the vocabulary of a particular language, field, social class, person, etc. **3.** the total store of words or morphemes in a given language. [1595-1600; < MGk, Gk *lexikon*, *n.* use of neut. of *lexikōs* (used with *logos*) the statistical study of the vocabulary of a language or of its historical purposes. [1955-60]

Lex·ing·ton (lek'sing tan'), *n.* **1.** a town in E Massachusetts: first battle of the American Revolution fought here 1775. 29,479. **2.** a city in N Kentucky. 239,942.

lex·is (lek'sis), *n.* the vocabulary of a language, esp. as distinguished from its grammar.

service of the British monarch or the Commonwealth: **9.** fine; excellent: *in royal spirits*. **10.** *Informal.* ex-
 -sistent; unmitigated: *a royal pain*. —*n.* **11.** a sail set on a
12. *Informal.* a royal person; member of the royalty. **13.** a
 paper, 20 × 25 in. (51 × 64 cm). **14.** a size of writ-
 ing paper, 19 × 24 in. (48 × 61 cm). [1325-75; ME < MF < L *rēgā-*
rēg- (s. of *rēx*) king + *-alis* -AL'; cf. REGAL] —**roy/al-ly,**
adv. **1.** (in Great Britain and other Commonwealth coun-
 tries) with the official consent of the sovereign or a representative to a bill
 of Parliament.
2. *Informal.* **3.** a deep blue, often with a purplish tinge. [1810-20]
4. *Informal.* **5.** *Canada/dian Mount/ed Police/*, *n.* the national police force
 since 1920.
6. *Informal.* **7.** *n.* a tall, coarse osmunda fern, *Osmunda regalis*, have-
 ing upright fronds, growing in wetland areas. [1770-80]
8. *Informal.* **9.** *n.* a hand in poker consisting of the five highest cards
 [1865-70]
10. *Informal.* **11.** (roi/ə list), *n.* **1.** a supporter of a monarch or royal govern-
 ment in times of rebellion or civil war. **2.** (*cap.*) a supporter of
 the House of England; Cavalier. **3.** (*often cap.*) a loyalist in the Ameri-
 can Revolution; Tory. **4.** (*cap.*) a supporter of the Bourbons in France.
5. a person or pertaining to royalists. [1635-45] —**roy/al-ism,** *n.*
1. the doctrine or policy of monarchy. **2.** the doctrine of monarchy
 as a political system. **3.** a viscous substance secreted from the pharyngeal
 pouches of worker honeybees, fed to all larvae during their first few
 days of life and afterward only to those larvae selected to be queens.
4. *Informal.* **5.** a mast situated immediately above, and generally
 above, a single spar with, a topgallant mast. [1785-95]
6. *Informal.* **7.** *n.* a city in SE Michigan, near Detroit. 64,120.
8. *Informal.* **9.** *n.* any of several tall, showy feather palms of the ge-
 nus *Roystonea*, as *R. regia*. [1860-65, Amer.]
10. *Informal.* **11.** *n.* a tree, *Delonix regia*, of the legume family, native
 to Madagascar, having clusters of scarlet flowers and long, flat,
 winged pods. Also called *flame tree*. [1895-1900]
12. *Informal.* **13.** (roi/əl tē), *n., pl. -ties.* **1.** royal persons collectively. **2.**
 a person's status, dignity, or power; sovereignty. **3.** a person of royal line-
 age; a member of a royal family. **4.** *Usu.,* **royalties.** prerogatives or
 rights of a sovereign. **5.** a royal domain; kingdom; realm. **6.** character-
 istic of a person proper to or befitting a sovereign; nobility. **7.** a compensa-
 tion or portion of the proceeds paid to the owner of a right, as a pat-
 ent, for oil or mineral right, for the use of it. **8.** an agreed portion of
 the net income from a work paid to its author, composer, etc., usu. a per-
 centage of the retail price of each copy sold. **9.** a royal right, as over
 the mint, granted by a sovereign to a person or corporation. **10.** the
 right made for such a right. [1350-1400; ME *roialte* < OF. See
 ROYALTY]
11. *Informal.* **12.** *we/*, *pron.* *we* (def. 4). [1825-35]
13. *Informal.* **14.** *Worces/ter, Trademark.* WORCESTER CHINA.
15. *Informal.* **16.** *n.* Josiah, 1855-1916, U.S. philosopher and educator.
17. *Informal.* **18.** (roz/ər), *n.* *Brit. Slang.* a policeman. [1890-95; orig. uncert.]
19. *Informal.* **20.** Received Pronunciation. **21.** repurchase agreement. **22.** retinitis
 pigmentosa.
23. *Informal.* **24.** *n.* a city in the state of Virginia.
25. *Informal.* **26.** **1.** Reformed Presbyterian. **2.** Regius Professor.
27. *Informal.* **28.** a role-playing game.
29. *Informal.* **30.** *n.* **1.** *r.p.m.,* revolutions per minute.
31. *Informal.* **32.** *n.* **1.** *r.p.s.,* revolutions per second.
33. *Informal.* **34.** **1.** repeat. **2.** report.
35. *Informal.* **36.** respiratory quotient.
37. *Informal.* **38.** *n.* **1.** railroad. **2.** Right Reverend. **3.** rural route.
39. *Informal.* **40.** *adjective* (ār/rā/tid), *adj.* (of a motion picture) suitable for those un-
 der 17 years of age only when accompanied by an adult. [1965-70]
41. *Informal.* **42.** *n.* **1.** *rhagia* or *-rhagia*, a combining form with the meanings "rupture,"
 "effuse discharge," "abnormal flow": *menorrhagia*. [*<* GK *-rrhagia*,
comb. form akin to *rhēgnūnai* to break, burst, shatter]
43. *Informal.* **44.** *n.* **1.** *rhapsody* or *-rhapsody*, a combining form meaning "suture": *teno-*
rhapsody. [*<* GK *-rhapsia*, *comb. form* akin to *rháptēin* to stitch, sew]
45. *Informal.* **46.** *n.* **1.** *rhea* or *-rhea* or *-rhoea* or *-rrhoea*, a combining form meaning
 "flow," "discharge": *menorrhea*; *pyorrhoea*. [*<* NL *-rrhoea* < GK
rhōia, *comb. form* repr. *rhōta* a flow, akin to *rhēin* to flow, STREAM]
47. *Informal.* **48.** *n.* **1.** *rhiza* or *-rhiza*, var. of RHIZO- as a final element; *mycorrhiza*. [*<* NL
< GK *rhíza* root]
49. *Informal.* **50.** *n.* **1.** *rhoea*, var. of -RRHEA.
51. *Informal.* **52.** *n.* **1.** *rRNA*, ribosomal RNA.
53. *Informal.* **54.** *n.* **1.** *R.S.,* 1. Recording Secretary. **2.** Revised Statutes. **3.** right side.
55. *Informal.* **56.** *n.* **1.** *RSA*, Republic of South Africa.
57. *Informal.* **58.** *n.* **1.** *RSO*, repetitive strain disorder.
59. *Informal.* **60.** *n.* **1.** *RSFSR* or *R.S.F.S.R.,* Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic.
61. *Informal.* **62.** *n.* **1.** *RSI*, repetitive strain injury.
63. *Informal.* **64.** *n.* **1.** *RSV*, Revised Standard Version.
65. *Informal.* **66.** *n.* **1.** *RSVP*, (used on an invitation to indicate that the favor of a reply is re-
 quested.) [1895-1900; < F *r(épondez) s'il v(ous) p(laît)* please re-
 ply]
67. *Informal.* **68.** *n.* **1.** *right*.
69. *Informal.* **70.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
71. *Informal.* **72.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
73. *Informal.* **74.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
75. *Informal.* **76.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
77. *Informal.* **78.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
79. *Informal.* **80.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
81. *Informal.* **82.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
83. *Informal.* **84.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
85. *Informal.* **86.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
87. *Informal.* **88.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
89. *Informal.* **90.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
91. *Informal.* **92.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
93. *Informal.* **94.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
95. *Informal.* **96.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
97. *Informal.* **98.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
99. *Informal.* **100.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
101. *Informal.* **102.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
103. *Informal.* **104.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
105. *Informal.* **106.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
107. *Informal.* **108.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
109. *Informal.* **110.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
111. *Informal.* **112.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
113. *Informal.* **114.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
115. *Informal.* **116.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
117. *Informal.* **118.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
119. *Informal.* **120.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
121. *Informal.* **122.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
123. *Informal.* **124.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
125. *Informal.* **126.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
127. *Informal.* **128.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
129. *Informal.* **130.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
131. *Informal.* **132.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
133. *Informal.* **134.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
135. *Informal.* **136.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
137. *Informal.* **138.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
139. *Informal.* **140.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
141. *Informal.* **142.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
143. *Informal.* **144.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
145. *Informal.* **146.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
147. *Informal.* **148.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
149. *Informal.* **150.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
151. *Informal.* **152.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
153. *Informal.* **154.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
155. *Informal.* **156.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
157. *Informal.* **158.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
159. *Informal.* **160.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
161. *Informal.* **162.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
163. *Informal.* **164.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
165. *Informal.* **166.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
167. *Informal.* **168.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
169. *Informal.* **170.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
171. *Informal.* **172.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
173. *Informal.* **174.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
175. *Informal.* **176.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
177. *Informal.* **178.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
179. *Informal.* **180.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
181. *Informal.* **182.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
183. *Informal.* **184.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
185. *Informal.* **186.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
187. *Informal.* **188.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
189. *Informal.* **190.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
191. *Informal.* **192.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
193. *Informal.* **194.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
195. *Informal.* **196.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
197. *Informal.* **198.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
199. *Informal.* **200.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
201. *Informal.* **202.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
203. *Informal.* **204.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
205. *Informal.* **206.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
207. *Informal.* **208.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
209. *Informal.* **210.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
211. *Informal.* **212.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
213. *Informal.* **214.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
215. *Informal.* **216.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
217. *Informal.* **218.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
219. *Informal.* **220.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
221. *Informal.* **222.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
223. *Informal.* **224.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
225. *Informal.* **226.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
227. *Informal.* **228.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
229. *Informal.* **230.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
231. *Informal.* **232.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
233. *Informal.* **234.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
235. *Informal.* **236.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
237. *Informal.* **238.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
239. *Informal.* **240.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
241. *Informal.* **242.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
243. *Informal.* **244.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
245. *Informal.* **246.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
247. *Informal.* **248.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
249. *Informal.* **250.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
251. *Informal.* **252.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
253. *Informal.* **254.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
255. *Informal.* **256.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
257. *Informal.* **258.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
259. *Informal.* **260.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
261. *Informal.* **262.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
263. *Informal.* **264.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
265. *Informal.* **266.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
267. *Informal.* **268.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
269. *Informal.* **270.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
271. *Informal.* **272.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
273. *Informal.* **274.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
275. *Informal.* **276.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
277. *Informal.* **278.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
279. *Informal.* **280.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
281. *Informal.* **282.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
283. *Informal.* **284.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
285. *Informal.* **286.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
287. *Informal.* **288.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
289. *Informal.* **290.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
291. *Informal.* **292.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
293. *Informal.* **294.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
295. *Informal.* **296.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
297. *Informal.* **298.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
299. *Informal.* **300.** *n.* **1.** *right*. **2.** *right*. **3.** *right*.
301.</

violin-maker (vī'ə lin'mā'kər), *n.* a person who designs and constructs violins, esp. professionally. [1675-85]

Viollet-le-Duc (vyō' lē'lə d'v'k'), *n.* Eugène Emmanuel, 1814-79, French architect and writer.

violon-cello (vē'ə lən chel'ō, vī'-), *n., pl.* -los. CELLO. [1715-25; < lt] —vi'olon-cel'list, *n.*

VIP or **V.I.P.** (vē'i'pē'), *Informal.* very important person. [1940-45]

viper (vī'pər), *n.* 1. any venomous snake of the cosmopolitan family Viperidae, characterized by a pair of hollow fangs that can be erected for biting and injecting venom: includes the adders, puff adders, and pit vipers. 2. any of various other venomous or supposedly venomous snakes. 3. a malignant, spiteful, or treacherous person. [1520-30; < L *vīpera*, haploglossal form of **vīvipera*, *n.* use of fem. of **vīviper*, later (as re-formation) *vīvīparus* VIVIPAROUS] —vi'per-ish, *adj.*

vi-per-ine (vī'pər in, -pə rīn'), *adj.* viperous.

vi-per-ous (vī'pər əs), *adj.* 1. resembling a viper. 2. pertaining to or characteristic of vipers. 3. venomous. [1525-35] —vi'per-ous-ly, *adv.*

vi-ra-go (vī rā'gō, -rā'gō), *n., pl.* -goes, -gos. 1. a loud-voiced, ill-tempered, scolding woman; shrew. 2. *Archaic.* a woman of strength or spirit. [bef. 1000; ME, OE < L *virāgō* = *vir* man + *-āgō* suffix expressing association of some kind, here resemblance]

vi-ral (vī'rāl), *adj.* of, pertaining to, or caused by a virus. [1935-40]

vi-re-lay or **vi-re-lai** (vī'rē lā'), *n., pl.* -lays or -lais. an old French form of short poem, composed of short lines running on two rhymes and having two opening lines recurring at intervals. [1350-1400; ME < OF *vitrelai*]

vi-re-mia (vī rē'mē ə), *n.* the presence of a virus in the blood. [1945-50; *vir*(us) + -EMIA] —vi-re'mic, *adj.*

vi-re-o (vī'rē ō'), *n., pl.* vi-re-os. any of various small, insectivorous, typically dull-plumaged songbirds of the family Vireonidae, of the New World, having a slightly hooked bill. [1825-35; < NL; L *virēō* (Pliny), prob. the greenfinch, der. of *virēre* to be green]

vi-res-cence (vī res'əns, vī-), *n.* Bot. the state of becoming somewhat green due to the abnormal presence of chlorophyll. [1885-90]

vi-res-cent (vī res'ənt, vī-), *adj.* 1. turning green. 2. tending to a green color; greenish. [1820-30; < L *virēscēt-, virēscēns*, *pp.* of *virēscere* to become green, inchoative der. of *virēre* to be green]

vir-ga (vūr'gā), *n.* (used with a *sing.* or *pl. v.*) streaks of water drops or ice particles falling out of a cloud and evaporating before reaching the ground. [1935-40; < L: rod, streak]

vir-gate¹ (vūr'gīt, -gāt), *adj.* shaped like a rod or wand; long, slender, and straight. [1815-25; < L *virgatus*; see VIRGA, -ATE¹]

vir-gate² (vūr'gīt, -gāt), *n.* an early English measure of land, equal to about 30 acres (12 hectares). [1645-55; < ML *virgāta* (*terrae*) measure (of land), fem. of L *virgātus* pertaining to a rod; see VIRGATE¹]

Vir-gil (vūr'jəl), *n.* (Publius Vergilius Maro) 70-19 B.C., Roman poet: author of *The Aeneid*. —**Vir-gil-i-an** (vūr jil'ē ən, -jil'yən), *adj.*

vir-gin (vūr'jīn), *n.* 1. a person who has never had sexual intercourse. 2. an unmarried girl or woman. 3. the Virgin, Mary, the mother of Jesus. 4. *Informal.* any person who is uninitiated, uninitiated, or the like. 5. an animal, esp. a female, that has not copulated. 6. a. a female insect that lays viable eggs without male fertilization. b. the female resulting from such an egg. 7. (*cap.*) VIRGO. —*adj.* 8. being a virgin. 9. of, pertaining to, or characteristic of a virgin. 10. pure; unsullied. 11. first: the senator's virgin speech. 12. without alloy or modification: virgin gold. 13. not previously exploited or used: virgin timberlands. 14. Zool. not fertilized. 15. (esp. of olive oil) obtained by the first light pressing and without the application of heat. [1150-1200; ME *virgine* < AF, OF < L *virgin-, s.* of *virgō*]

vir-gin-al¹ (vūr'jə nəl), *adj.* 1. pertaining to, characteristic of, or befitting a virgin. 2. continuing in a state of virginity. 3. pure; unsullied. 4. Zool. not fertilized. [1400-50; late ME < L] —**vir-gin-al-ly**, *adv.*

vir-gin-al² (vūr'jə nəl), *n.* Often, **vir-gin-als**, a rectangular harpsichord with the strings stretched parallel to the keyboard, the earlier types placed on a table: popular in the 16th and 17th centuries. [1520-30; appar. identical with VIRGINAL¹] —**vir-gin-al-ist**, *n.*

vir-gin birth¹, *n.* 1. the theological doctrine that the conception and birth of Christ did not impair the virginity of Mary. 2. PARTHENOGENESIS.

Vir-gin-ia (vūr jīn'yə), *n.* 1. a state in the E United States, on the Atlantic coast: part of the historical South. 6,733,996; 40,815 sq. mi. (105,710 sq. km). *Cap.*: Richmond. *Abbr.*: VA, Va. 2. (*italics*) MERRIMACK (def. 2). —**Vir-gin-i-an**, *n., adj.*

Virgin-ia Beach¹, *n.* a city in SE Virginia. 430,385.

Virgin-ia Cit-y, *n.* a mining town in W Nevada: famous for the discovery of the rich Comstock silver lode 1859.

Virgin-ia creep-er, *n.* a North American climbing plant, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, of the grape family, having palmate leaves, usu. with five leaflets, and bluish black berries. [1660-70, *Amer.*]

Virgin-ia fence¹, *n.* SNAKE FENCE. Also called **Virgin-ia rail fence**¹.

Virgin-ia ham¹, *n.* a ham from a hog fed on corn and peanuts, cured in hickory smoke. [1625-35, *Amer.*]

Virgin-ia pine¹, *n.* a pine, *Pinus virginiana*, of the eastern U.S., that grows in poor soil and has needles in groups of two.

Virgin-ia rail¹, *n.* a small, long-billed North American rail, *Rallus limicola*, having blackish and reddish brown plumage. [1775-85]

Virgin-ia reel¹, *n.* an American country dance in which the partners start by facing each other in two lines. [1810-20, *Amer.*]

Vir-gin is-lands, *n.pl.* a group of islands in the West Indies, E of

Puerto Rico: comprises the Virgin Islands of the United States and the British Virgin Islands. *Abbr.*: VI, V.I.

Vir-gin Is-lands Na-tional Park¹, *n.* a national park on St. John Island, Virgin Islands. 23 sq. mi. (59 sq. km).

Vir-gin Is-lands of the Unit-ed States¹, *n.pl.* a group of islands in the West Indies, including St. Thomas, St. John, and St. Croix: purchased from Denmark 1917. 110,000; 133 sq. mi. (345 sq. km). *Cap.*: Charlotte Amalie. Formerly, **Danish West Indies**.

vir-gin-i-ty (vūr jīn'ī tē), *n.* 1. the condition of being a virgin. 2. the condition of being pure or unused. 3. *Informal.* any naive or uninformed state. [1250-1300; ME < AF, OF < L]

Vir-gin Mar-y, *n.* 1. MARY (def. 1). 2. a Bloody Mary made without vodka or other liquor. [1250-1300]

vir-gin's-bow/er, *n.* any of several climbing varieties of clematis, as *Clematis virginiana*, of E North America, with branching clusters of small white flowers. [1590-1600]

Vir-go (vūr'gō), *n., gen.* **Vir-gi-nis** (vūr'jē nis) for 1. 1. the Virgin, a zodiacal constellation between Leo and Libra, containing the bright star Spica. 2. a. the sixth sign of the zodiac. b. a person born under this sign, usu. between August 23 and September 22. [bef. 1000; ME, OE < L: maiden]

vir-gule (vūr'gyūl), *n.* 1. a short oblique stroke (/) between two words indicating that the appropriate one may be chosen to complete the sense of the text: *the defendant and/or his/her attorney*. 2. a dividing line, as in dates, fractions, a run-in passage of poetry to show verse division, etc. Also called **diagonal**. [1830-40; < F *virgule* comma, little rod < L *virgula*, dim. of *virga* rod]

vir-i-cide (vī'rī sīd'), *n.* VIRUCIDE. —**vir-i-cid'al**, *adj.*

vir-i-des-cent (vī'rī des'ənt), *adj.* slightly green; greenish. [1840-50; < L *virid(is)* green (see VERT)] —**vir-i-des/cence**, *n.*

vir-rid-i-an (vūr rīd'ē ən), *n.* a long-lasting, bluish green pigment, consisting of a hydrated oxide of chromium. [1880-85; < L]

vir-rid-i-ty (vūr rīd'ī tē), *n.* 1. greenness; verdure. 2. youth; inexperience. [1400-50; late ME < L *viriditas* = *viridi(s)* green + *-itas* -ry²]

vir-ile (vī'rēl; esp. *Brit.* -il), *adj.* 1. having or exhibiting masculine strength; masculine; manly. 2. characterized by a vigorous, masculine spirit. 3. pertaining to or characteristic of a man, esp. in a copulative function. [1480-90; < L *virilis* manly = *vir* man (akin to OE *wer* man; see WEREWOLF) + *-ilis* -ile²]

vir-il-ism (vī'rē līz'əm), *n.* the condition in a female of having male secondary sex characteristics. [1895-1900]

vir-il-i-ty (vūr rīl'ī tē), *n.* the state or quality of being virile; manly character, vigor, or spirit; masculinity. [1580-90; < L]

vir-il-ize (vī'rē līz'), *v.t., -ized, -iz-ing*, to induce or promote the development of male secondary sex characteristics in (a female); masculinize. —**vir-il-i-za-tion**, *n.*

vir-i-on (vī'rē on', vī'rē'), *n.* the infectious form of a virus as it exists outside the host cell, consisting of a core of DNA or RNA, a protein coat, and, in some species, an external envelope. [1960-65; < F *virion* (1959) = *vir(en)* viral (see VIRUS, -IAN) + *-on* -on¹]

vir-oid (vī'roid), *n.* an infectious agent of plants similar to a virus but consisting of only a short, single strand of RNA without a protein coat.

vir-ol-o-gy (vī rol'ə jē, vī-), *n.* the study of viruses and viral diseases. [1930-35] —**vir-ol-og'i-cal** (-rə loj'ī kəl), *adj.* —**vir-ol'o-gist**, *n.*

v. irr., irregular verb.

vir-tu or **ver-tu** (vūr tōō', vūr'tōō), *n.* 1. excellence or merit in objects of art, curios, and the like. 2. (used with a *pl. v.*) such objects or articles collectively. 3. a taste for such objects. [1715-25; < It *virtù*, *vertù* VIRTUE]

vir-tu-al (vūr'chō əl), *adj.* 1. being such in force or effect, though not actually or expressly such: *reduced to virtual poverty*. 2. a. noting an optical image formed by the apparent convergence of rays geometrically, but not actually, prolonged, as the image formed by a mirror (opposed to *real*). b. noting a focus of a system forming virtual images. 3. a. temporarily simulated or extended by computer software: *virtual memory on a hard disk*. b. of, existing on, or by means of computers: *virtual discussions on the Internet*. [1350-1400; ME < ML *virtuālis* = L *virtu(s)* VIRTUE + *-ālis* -al¹] —**vir-tu-al-i-ty**, *n.*

vir-tu-al-ly (vūr'chō ə lē), *adv.* for the most part; almost wholly; just about. [1400-50] —**Usage.** See LITERALLY.

vir-tual real-ity, *n.* a realistic simulation of an environment, including three-dimensional graphics, by a computer system using interactive software and hardware. [1985-90]

vir-tue (vūr'chō), *n.* 1. conformity of one's life and conduct to moral and ethical principles; moral excellence; rectitude. 2. a particular moral excellence. 3. chastity; virginity; *to lose one's virtue*. 4. a good or admirable quality or property. 5. effective force; power or potency. 6. **virtues**, an order of angels. Compare ANGEL (def. 1). 7. manly excellence; valor. —**Idiom.** 8. *by* or *in virtue of*, by reason of; because of. 9. *make a virtue of necessity*, to make the best of a difficult or unsatisfactory situation. [1175-1225; *vertu* < OF < L *virtūtem*, acc. of *virtūs* desirable male qualities, worth, virtue = *vir* man (see VIRILE) + *-tūs* abstract *n.* suffix] —**Syn.** See GOODNESS.

vir-tu-os-i-ty (vūr'chō ōs'ī tē), *n.* 1. the character, ability, or skill of a virtuoso. 2. a fondness for or interest in virtue. [1665-75]

vir-tu-o-so (vūr'chō ō'sō), *n., pl.* -sos, -si (-sē), *adj.* —*n.* 1. a person who has special knowledge or skill in a field. 2. a person who excels in musical technique or execution. 3. a person who has a cultivated appreciation of artistic excellence. —*adj.* 4. of, pertaining to, or