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em·bel·lish (ĕm-bĕl'fĭsh) *v.* 1. To make beautiful, as by ornamentation; decorate. 2. To add fictitious details to. [*Ofr. embellir < bel, beautiful.*] — **em·bel·lish·ment** *n.*

em·ber (ĕm'ber) *n.* 1. A piece of live coal or wood from a fire. 2. **embers** The smoldering remains of a trust. [*Ofr. emberge.*]

em·bez·zle (ĕm-bĕz'zəl) *v.* **-zled, -zling.** To take (e.g., money) for one's own use in violation of a trust. [*AN embesler.*] — **em·bez·zle·ment** *n.* — **em·bez·zler** *n.*

em·bit·ter (ĕm-bit'or) *v.* 1. To make bitter. 2. To arouse bitter feelings in. — **em·bit·ter·ment** *n.*

em·bla·zon (ĕm-blā'zən) *v.* 1. To ornament richly, esp. with heraldic devices. 2. To make resplendent with brilliant colors. 3. To mark or inscribe boldly. — **em·bla·zon·er** *n.* — **em·bla·zon·ment** *n.*

em·blem (ĕm'bləm) *n.* 1. An object or representation that functions as a symbol. 2. A distinctive badge, design, or device. [*Gk. emblemata, embossed design.*] — **em·blem·at·ic, em·blem·at·i·cal** *adj.* — **em·blem·at·i·cal·ly** *adv.*

em·bod·y (ĕm-bŏd'ē) *v.* **-bod·ied, -bod·ying** 1. To give a bodily form to. 2. To personify. 3. To make part of a system or whole; incorporate. — **em·bod·i·ment** *n.*

em·bod·y·ment (ĕm-bŏd'ē-mĕnt) *n.* 1. Obstruction or occlusion of a blood vessel by an embolus. 2. An embolus. [*Gk. embolismos, insertion.*]

em·bo·lus (ĕm'bŏ-lŭs) *n., pl. -li (-li)* A mass in the bloodstream that lodges so as to block a blood vessel. [*Gk. embolos, stopper.*]

em·boss (ĕm-bŏs', -bŏs') *v.* 1. To mold or carve in relief. 2. To decorate with a raised design. [*Ofr. embosser < boce, knob.*]

em·bou·chure (ĕm'bŏ-shŭr) *n.* 1. The mouthpiece of a wind instrument. 2. The manner in which the lips and tongue are applied to such a mouthpiece. [*Ofr. emboucher, put in the mouth < bouche, mouth.*]

em·bow·er (ĕm-bŏu'er) *v.* To enclose in or as if in a bow.

em·brace (ĕm-brās') *v.* **-braced, -brac·ing** 1. To clasp or hold close with the arms. 2. To surround; enclose. The warm water embraced us. 3. To include as part of something broader. 4. To take up willingly or eagerly; embrace a cause. *n.* An act of embracing. [*Ofr. embracer < brace, the two arms.*] — **em·brace·a·ble** *adj.* — **em·brace·ment** *n.*

em·bra·sure (ĕm-brā'zŭr) *n.* 1. An opening in a thick wall for a door or window. 2. A flared opening for a gun in a wall or parapet. [*Fr.*]

em·bro·cate (ĕm-brŏ-kāt') *v.* **-cat·ed, -cat·ing.** To moisten and rub (a part of the body) with a liniment or lotion. [*Gk. embrechein.*] — **em·bro·ca·tion** *n.*

em·broi·der (ĕm-brŏi'dĕr) *v.* 1. To ornament with needlework. 2. To add embellishments or fanciful details to: embroider the truth. [*ME embrouderen.*] — **em·broi·der·er** *n.*

em·broi·der·y (ĕm-brŏi'dĕ-rē) *n., pl. -ies* 1. The art or art of embroidering. 2. Something that has been embroidered.

em·broll (ĕm-brŏil') *v.* 1. To involve in argu-

ment, contention, or hostile actions. 2. To throw into confusion or disorder; entangle. [*Fr. embrouiller.*] — **em·broil·ment** *n.*

em·bryo (ĕm'brē-ŏ) *n., pl. -os* 1. An organism in its early stages of development, esp. before it has reached a distinctively recognizable form. 2. A rudimentary or beginning stage. [*Gk. embrŭon.*] — **em·bry·on·ic** (ĕm'brē-ŏn'ik) *adj.* — **em·bry·on·i·cal·ly** *adv.*

em·bry·ol·o·gy (ĕm'brē-ŏl'ŏ-jē) *n.* The branch of biology that deals with the formation, early growth, and development of living organisms. — **em·bry·ol·o·gic** (ĕm'brē-ŏl'ŏ-jik) *adj.* — **em·bry·ol·o·gic·al** *adj.* — **em·bry·ol·o·gist** *n.*

em·cee (ĕm'sē') *n.* A master of ceremonies. *v.* **-ceed, -cee·ing.** To act as master of ceremonies (of). [*Pronunciation of M.C., abbr. of master of ceremonies.*]

em·mend (ĕm'ĕnd') *v.* To improve (a text) by critical editing. [*Lat. emendare.*] — **em·men·da·tion** *n.* — **em·mend·er** *n.*

em·er·ald (ĕm'ar-ald, ĕm'rald) *n.* 1. A brilliant transparent green beryl, used as a gemstone. 2. A strong yellowish green. [*Gk. smaragdŭs.*] — **em·er·ald** *adj.*

em·erge (ĕm'ĕrj') *v.* **-em·erged, em·er·ging** 1. To rise up or come forth; issue. 2. To become evident. 3. To come into existence. [*Lat. emergere.*] — **em·er·gence** *n.* — **em·er·gent** *adj.*

em·er·gen·cy (ĕm'ĕrjən-sē) *n., pl. -cies.* A serious, unexpected situation or occurrence that demands immediate action.

em·er·itus (ĕm'ĕr'it-us) *adj.* Retired but retaining an honorary title: a professor emeritus. [*Lat. emeritus, p.p. of emerere, earn by service.*]

Em·er·son (ĕm'or-sən), **Ralph Waldo.** 1803–82. Amer. writer and philosopher. — **Em·er·so·ni·an** (ĕm'or-sŏ-nē-ən) *adj.*

em·ery (ĕm'ĕ-rē, ĕm're) *n.* A fine-grained impure corundum used for grinding and polishing. [*LLat. smerulcus < Gk. smiris.*]

em·et·ic (ĕm'ĕt'ik) *adj.* Causing vomiting. [*Gk. emein, to vomit.*] — **em·et·ic** *n.*

EMF *abbr.* electromotive force

-emia or **-hemia** or also **-aemia** or **-haemia** *suffix.* Blood: leukemia. [*Gk. haima, blood.*]

em·i·grate (ĕm'i-grāt') *v.* **-grat·ed, -grat·ing.** To leave one country or region to settle in another. See Usage Note at migrate. [*Lat. emigrare.*] — **em·i·grant** (ĕm'i-grant) *n.* — **em·i·gra·tion** *n.*

em·i·gré (ĕm'i-grā') *n.* One who has left a native country, esp. for political reasons. [*Fr.*]

em·i·nence (ĕm'ŏ-nāns) *n.* 1. A position of great distinction or superiority. 2. A rise of ground; hill. 3. A person of high station or great achievements.

em·i·nent (ĕm'ŏ-nānt) *adj.* 1. Rising above others; prominent. 2. Of high rank or station. 3. Outstanding; distinguished. See Syns at noted. [*Lat. eminere, stand out.*] — **em·i·nent·ly** *adv.*

eminent domain *n.* The right of a government to appropriate private property for public use.

em·mir (ĕm'ir', ĕm'ir') *n.* A prince, chieftain, or governor, especially in the Middle East. [*Ar. amir, commander, prince.*]

em·mir·ate (ĕm'ir'it, -āt') *n.* 1. The office of an emir. 2. The nation or territory ruled by an emir.

em·is·sar·y (ĕm'is-sĕr'ē) *n., pl. -ies.* An agent sent on a mission to represent another. [*Lat. emissarius.*]

em·mit (ĕm'it') *v.* **-em·mit·ted, em·mit·ting** 1. To release or send out matter or energy. 2. To utter; express. 3. To put (currency) into circulation. [*Lat. emittere.*] — **em·mis·sion** (ĕm'is'ŭn) *n.* — **em·mit·ter** *n.*

em·mol·lient (ĕm'mŏl'yŏnt) *adj.* Softening and soothing, esp. to the skin. [*Lat. emollire, soften.*] — **em·mol·lient** *n.*

em·mol·u·ment (ĕm'mŏl'yŏ-mĕnt) *n.* Payment for an office or employment; compensation. [*Lat. emolumentum.*]

em·mote (ĕm'mŏt') *v.* **-em·mot·ed, em·mot·ing.** To express emotion, esp. in an excessive or theatrical manner. [*EMOTION.*]

em·mo·ti·con (ĕm'mŏ-ti-kŏn) *n.* A series of keyed characters used, as in e-mail, to indicate an emotion or attitude, as I :-) to indicate intended humor. [*EMOTION + ICON.*]

em·mo·tion (ĕm'mŏ'shŏn) *n.* 1. A strong feeling, as of joy, sorrow, or hate. 2. A state of mental agitation or disturbance. [*VLat. exmovēre, exmōr-, excite.*]

em·mo·tion·al (ĕm'mŏ-shā-nəl) *adj.* 1. Of or exhibiting emotion. 2. Readily affected with emotion. 3. Arousing the emotions: an emotional appeal. — **em·mo·tion·al·ism** *n.* — **em·mo·tion·al·ize** *v.* — **em·mo·tion·al·ly** *adv.*

em·mo·tive (ĕm'mŏ'tiv) *adj.* 1. Of or relating to emotion. 2. Expressing or exciting emotion; an emotive trial lawyer. — **em·mo·tive·ly** *adv.* — **em·mo·tive·ness** *n.*

em·pa·na·da (ĕm'pā-nādā) *n.* A turnover with a flaky crust and a spicy or sweet filling. [*Sp. pan, bread.*]

em·pan·el (ĕm-pā-nəl) *v.* Var. of **impanel**.

em·pa·thy (ĕm'pā-thē) *n.* Identification with and understanding of another's situation, feelings, and motives. [*IN- + -PATHY.*] — **em·pa·thet·ic, em·path·ic** (ĕm'pā-thĕt'ik) *adj.* — **em·pa·thize** *v.* — **em·pa·thi·ze** *v.*

em·per·or (ĕm'pŏr-ŏr) *n.* The male ruler of an empire. [*Lat. imperator.*]

em·pha·sis (ĕm'fā-sis) *n., pl. -ses (-sĕz')* 1. Special forcefulness of expression that gives importance to something singled out. 2. Stress given to a syllable, word, or words. [*Gk. emphainō, -to exhibit.*] — **em·pha·size** *v.* — **em·phat·ic** (ĕm'fāt'ik) *adj.* — **em·phat·i·cal·ly** *adv.*

Syns: emphasis, accent, stress *n.*

em·phy·se·ma (ĕm'fī-sĕ'mā, -zĕ') *n.* A disease of the lungs marked by an abnormal increase in the size of the air spaces, resulting in labored breathing and an increased susceptibility to infection. [*Gk. emphŕema, inflation.*] — **em·phy·se·mic** *adj. & n.*

em·pire (ĕm'pīr') *n.* 1. A political unit having an extensive territory or comprising a number of territories or nations and ruled by a single supreme authority. 2. An extensive enterprise under a central authority: a publishing empire. 3. Imperial sovereignty, domination, or control. [*Lat. imperium.*]

em·pir·i·cal (ĕm'pīr'i-kəl) *adj.* 1. Based on observation or experiment. 2. Guided by practical experience and not theory. [*Gk. empei-*

rikos, experienced.] — **em·pir'i·cal·ly** *adv.*

em·piri·cism (ĕm'pīr'i-siz'əm) *n.* A view that experience, esp. of the only source of knowledge. 2. Empirical methods, as in science. *cist* *n.*

em·place·ment (ĕm-plās'mĕnt) *n.* A prearranged position for a military weapon; location. [*Fr.*]

em·ploy (ĕm-ploī') *v.* 1. To employ. 2. To put to work. 3. To put to use. *n.* Employment. [*Lat. implere, to employ.*] — **em·ploy·a·bil·ity** *n.* — **em·ploy·er** *n.*

em·ploy·ee also **em·ploy·e** (ĕm'ploī-ē') *n.* A person who works for another in return for compensation.

em·ploy·ment (ĕm-ploī'mĕnt) *n.* 1. The act of employing. 2. The state of being employed. 3. The work in which one occupies oneself.

em·po·ri·um (ĕm-pŏr'i-əm, -pŏr'i-əm) *n.* 1. A marketplace. 2. A large retail variety of goods. [*Gk. emporion, a market.*]

em·pow·er (ĕm-pou'ar) *v.* To give legal power. See Syns at empower. — **em·pow·er·ment** *n.*

em·press (ĕm'prĕs) *n.* 1. The wife of an empire. 2. The wife or widow of a monarch. [*Ofr. emperesse.*]

emp·ty (ĕm'ptē) *adj.* **-ti·er, -ti·er, -ti·er, -ti·er.** 1. Lacking nothing. 2. Having no occupants; vacant. 3. Lacking purpose; meaningless. See Syns at empty. — **em·pty·ness** *n.*

em·py·re·an (ĕm'pī-rē-ən, ĕm'pī-rē-ən) *n.* 1. The highest reaches of heaven. [*Gk. empyros, fiery < pur, fire.*] — **em·py·re·an·ly** *adv.*

EMT *abbr.* emergency medical technician

em·u (ĕm'yŭ) *n.* A large flightless bird related to and resembling a penguin. [*Port. ema, flightless bird of South Africa.*] — **em·u·late** (ĕm'yŭ-lāt') *v.* **-lat·ed, -lat·ing.** To strive to equal or excel, esp. in achievement. [*Lat. aemulāri.*] — **em·u·late·ly** *adv.* — **em·u·la·tive** *adj.* — **em·u·la·tion** (ĕm'yŭ-lā-ti-ŏn) *n.* 1. The act of emulating. 2. To make into an emulsion. — **em·u·la·tion·al** *adj.* — **em·u·la·tor** *n.*

em·ul·sion (ĕm'yŭ-lā-shŏn) *n.* 1. A mixture of small globules of one liquid in another liquid in which the first will not mix. 2. A mixture of one liquid in a thin gelatin layer, on photographic paper, or glass. [*Lat. emulgere, to milk.*] — **em·ul·sive** *adj.*

en (ĕn) *n., Print.* A space equivalent of an em.

en-1 or **en-** *in-* *pref.* 1a. To put into: encapsulate. b. To go into: entrain. 2. To cover or provide with: to enrobe. 3. To cause to be: endeavor. 4. To furnish with an intensive: entangle. [*Lat. en-*