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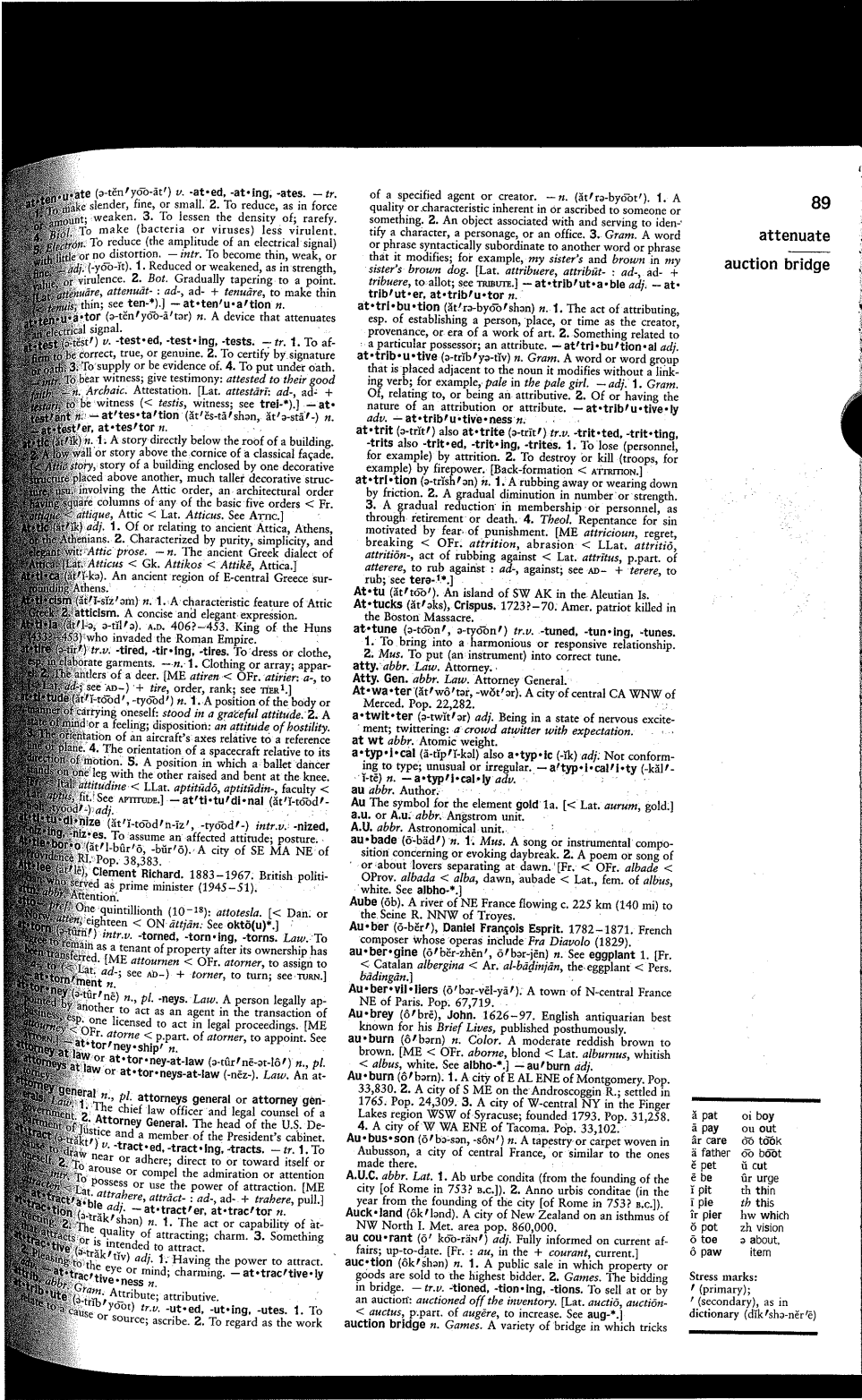
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attenuate  
auction bridge

**at·ten·u·ate** (ə-tén'yoo-āt') *v.* **-at·ed, -at·ing, -ates, -tr.**  
1. To make slender, fine, or small. 2. To reduce, as in force or amount; weaken. 3. To lessen the density of; rarely, *v.*  
4. Biol. To make (bacteria or viruses) less virulent.  
5. Electron. To reduce (the amplitude of an electrical signal) with little or no distortion. — *intr.* To become thin, weak, or fine. — *adj.* [yoo-ē-ē]. 1. Reduced or weakened, as in strength, virile, or virulence. 2. Bot. Gradually tapering to a point.  
[*Lat. attenuare, attenuat-; ad-, ad- + tendere, to make thin + tenuis, thin; see ten-\**] — **at·ten·u·a·tion** n.  
**at·ten·u·a·tor** (ə-tén'yoo-ā'tor) *n.* A device that attenuates an electrical signal.  
**at·test** (ə-tést') *v.* **-test·ed, -test·ing, -tests, -tr.** 1. To affirm to be correct, true, or genuine. 2. To certify by signature or oath. 3. To supply or be evidence of. 4. To put under oath.  
[*Lat. attestare, attestat-; ad-, ad- + testis, witness, to make thin + testis, witness; see ten-\**] — **at·test·ant** *n.* — **at·tes·ta·tion** (ăt'ēs-tā'shən, ăt'ə-stā'-) *n.* — **at·test·er, at·tes·tor** *n.*  
**at·tic** (ăt'ik) *n.* 1. A story directly below the roof of a building. 2. A low wall or story above the cornice of a classical façade. 3. A story, story of a building enclosed by one decorative structure placed above another, much taller decorative structure, usually involving the Attic order, an architectural order having square columns of any of the basic five orders < Fr. *attique* < *attique*, Attic < Lat. *Atticus*. See **ATRIC**.  
**at·tic** (ăt'ik) *adj.* 1. Of or relating to ancient Attica, Athens, or the Athenians. 2. Characterized by purity, simplicity, and elegance; *Attic* prose. — *n.* The ancient Greek dialect of Attica [Lat. *Atticus* < Gk. *Attikos* < *Attikē*, Attica].  
**At·tica** (ăt'ik) *n.* An ancient region of E-central Greece surrounding Athens.  
**at·ticism** (ăt'is-iz-əm) *n.* 1. A characteristic feature of Attic Greek. 2. **atticism**. A concise and elegant expression.  
**At·tila** (ăt'lā, ə-tī'lā) *n.* 406?–453. King of the Huns (433–453) who invaded the Roman Empire.  
**at·tire** (ə-tīr') *tr.v.* **-tired, -tir·ing, -tires, -tr.** To dress or clothe, esp. in elaborate garments. — *n.* 1. Clothing or array; apparel. 2. The antlers of a deer. [ME *atiren* < OFr. *atirier*: *a-, to dress; ad-, see ad-* + *tire*, order, rank; see **TR**.]  
**at·titude** (ăt'ti-tood', -tyood') *n.* 1. A position of the body or of carrying oneself; *stood in a graceful attitude*. 2. A position of mind or a feeling; *disposition: an attitude of hostility*. 3. The orientation of an aircraft's axes relative to its direction of motion. 5. A position in which a ballet dancer stands on one leg with the other raised and bent at the knee. [Fr. *attitude* < LLat. *aptitudō, aptitudin-, faculty < aptus, fit; see aptitude*.] — **at·ti·tude·nal** (ăt'ti-tood'-nəl) *adj.*  
**at·titudinal** (ăt'ti-tood'n-iz', -tyood'-) *adj.*  
**at·titudinal** (ăt'ti-tood'n-iz', -tyood'-) *intr.v.* **-nized, -nizes, -nizing, -nizes.** To assume an affected attitude posture.  
**At·tomboro** (ăt'tōm-bōr'ō, -bōr'ō) *n.* A city of SE MA NE of Providence RI. Pop. 38,383.  
**At·torney** (ăt'tō-nee) *n.* Clement Richard. 1883–1967. British politician who served as prime minister (1945–51).  
**at·torney** *n.*  
**at·torney** *n.* One quinquillion (10<sup>15</sup>): *attotesla*. [*< Dan. or Swed. atten, eighteen < ON átján; see okto(y)*].  
**at·torney** (ə-tōr-nee) *intr.v.* **-torned, -torn·ing, -torns, -tr.** Law. To remain as a tenant of property after its ownership has been transferred. [ME *attonnen* < OFr. *atorner*, to assign to + *tor* (< Lat. *ad-*; see **ad-**) + *torner*, to turn; see **TURN**].  
**at·torney·ment** *n.*  
**at·torney·ney** (ə-tōr-nee) *n., pl. -neys.* Law. A person legally appointed by another to act as an agent in the transaction of business, esp. one licensed to act in legal proceedings. [ME *attonney* < OFr. *atome* < p.part. of *atorner*, to appoint. See **ATTO**.]  
**at·torney·ship** *n.*  
**at·torney·at·law** or **at·torney·at·law** (ə-tōr-nee-ət-lō) *n., pl. -attorneys* *n.* Law. An attorney.  
**at·torney·general** *n., pl. attorneys general* or **attorney general**. Law. 1. The chief law officer and legal counsel of a government. 2. **Attorney General**. The head of the U.S. Department of Justice and a member of the President's cabinet.  
**at·tract** (ə-trăkt') *v.* **-tract·ed, -tract·ing, -tracts, -tr.** 1. To draw near or adhere; direct to or toward itself or oneself. 2. To arouse or compel the admiration or attention of. — *intr.* To possess or use the power of attraction. [ME *attract* < Lat. *attractare, attract-; ad-, ad- + trahere, pull*.]  
**at·tract·a·ble** *adj.* — **at·tract·er, at·tract·or** *n.*  
**at·tract·ion** (ə-trăk'shən) *n.* 1. The act or capability of attracting. 2. The quality of attracting; charm. 3. Something that attracts or is intended to attract.  
**at·tract·ive** (ə-trăk'tiv) *adj.* 1. Having the power to attract. 2. Attracting the eye or mind; charming. — **at·tract·ive·ly** *adv.*  
**at·trib·ute** (ə-trīb'yoot') *tr.v.* **-ut·ed, -ut·ing, -utes, -tr.** 1. To relate to a cause or source; ascribe. 2. To regard as the work

of a specified agent or creator. — *n.* (ăt'ra-byoot'). 1. A quality or characteristic inherent in or ascribed to someone or something. 2. An object associated with and serving to identify a character, a personage, or an office. 3. *Gram.* A word or phrase syntactically subordinate to another word or phrase that it modifies; for example, *my sister's* and *brown* in *my sister's brown dog*. [Lat. *attribuere, attribut-; ad-, ad- + tribuere, to allot; see tribuere*.] — **at·trib·u·t·a·ble** *adj.* — **at·trib·u·t·er, at·trib·u·tor** *n.*  
**at·tri·bu·tion** (ăt'tri-byoot'shən) *n.* 1. The act of attributing, esp. of establishing a person, place, or time as the creator, provenance, or era of a work of art. 2. Something related to a particular possessor; an attribute. — **at·tri·bu·tion·al** *adj.*  
**at·tri·bu·tive** (ə-trīb'yə-tiv) *n.* *Gram.* A word or word group that is placed adjacent to the noun it modifies without a linking verb; for example, *pale* in *the pale girl*. — *adj.* 1. *Gram.* Of relating to, or being an attributive. 2. Of or having the nature of an attribution or attribute. — **at·trib·u·tive·ly** *adv.* — **at·trib·u·tive·ness** *n.*  
**at·trit** (ə-trīt') also **at·trite** (ə-trīt') *tr.v.* **-trit·ed, -trit·ing, -trites** also **-trit·ed, -trit·ing, -trites**. 1. To lose (personnel, for example) by attrition. 2. To destroy or kill (troops, for example) by firepower. [Back-formation < **ATTRITION**.]  
**at·tri·tion** (ə-trī-shən) *n.* 1. A rubbing away or wearing down by friction. 2. A gradual diminution in number or strength. 3. A gradual reduction in membership or personnel, as through retirement or death. 4. *Theol.* Repentance for sin motivated by fear of punishment. [ME *attricioun*, regret, breaking < OFr. *attrition*, abrasion < LLat. *attritiō, attritiōn-, act of rubbing against < Lat. attritus, p.part. of attrere, to rub against; ad-, against; see ad- + terere, to rub; see tero-\**.]  
**At·tu** (ăt'too'). An island of SW AK in the Aleutian Is.  
**At·tucks** (ăt'taks), **Crispus**. 1723–70. Amer. patriot killed in the Boston Massacre.  
**at·tune** (ə-tōon', ə-tyoon') *tr.v.* **-tuned, -tun·ing, -tunes, -tr.** 1. To bring into a harmonious or responsive relationship. 2. *Mus.* To put (an instrument) into correct tune.  
**at·ty** *abbr.* *Law*. Attorney.  
**Atty. Gen.** *abbr.* *Law*. Attorney General.  
**At·wa·ter** (ăt'wō'tər, -wōt'ər). A city of central CA WNW of Merced. Pop. 22,282.  
**at·wit·ter** (ə-twit'tər) *adj.* Being in a state of nervous excitement; twittering: *a crowd atwitter with expectation*.  
**at·wt** *abbr.* Atomic weight.  
**at·typ·i·cal** (ə-tīp'i-kəl) also **at·typ·ic** (-ik) *adj.* Not conforming to type; unusual or irregular. — **at·typ·i·cal·ly** (-kəl'i) *adv.*  
**au** *abbr.* Author.  
**Au** The symbol for the element gold 1a. [*< Lat. aurum, gold*].  
**a.u.** or **A.U.** *abbr.* Angstrom unit.  
**A.U.** *abbr.* Astronomical unit.  
**au·bade** (ō-bād') *n.* 1. *Mus.* A song or instrumental composition concerning or evoking daybreak. 2. A poem or song of or about lovers separating at dawn. [Fr. < OFr. *albadē* < OProv. *albada* < *alba*, dawn, *aubade* < Lat., fem. of *albus*, white. See **albo-\*.]  
**Aube** (ōb). A river of NE France flowing c. 225 km (140 mi) to the Seine R. NNW of Troyes.  
**Au·ber** (ō-bēr'), **Daniel François Esprit**. 1782–1871. French composer whose operas include *Fra Diavolo* (1829).  
**au·ber·gine** (ō-bēr-jēn', ō-bēr-jēn) *n.* See **eggplant** 1. [Fr. < Catalan *albergina* < Ar. *al-badmjān*, the eggplant < Pers. *bādmjān*.]  
**Au·ber·vil·liers** (ō'ber-vēl-yā') *n.* A town of N-central France NE of Paris. Pop. 67,719.  
**Au·brey** (ō'brē), **John**. 1626–97. English antiquarian best known for his *Brief Lives*, published posthumously.  
**au·burn** (ō'burn) *n.* *Color*. A moderate reddish brown to brown. [ME < OFr. *auborne*, blond < Lat. *alburnus*, whitish < *albus*, white. See **albo-\*.] — **au'burn** *adj.*  
**Au·burn** (ō'burn). 1. A city of E AL ENE of Montgomery. Pop. 33,830. 2. A city of S ME on the Androscoggin R.; settled in 1765. Pop. 24,309. 3. A city of W-central NY in the Finger Lakes region WSW of Syracuse; founded 1793. Pop. 31,258. 4. A city of W WA ENE of Tacoma. Pop. 33,102.  
**Au·bus·son** (ō'bus-sōn, sōn') *n.* A tapestry or carpet woven in Aubusson, a city of central France, or similar to the ones made there.  
**A.U.C.** *abbr.* *Lat.* 1. Ab urbe condita (from the founding of the city [of Rome in 753? a.c.]). 2. Anno urbis conditae (in the year from the founding of the city [of Rome in 753? a.c.]).  
**Auck·land** (ōk'lənd). A city of New Zealand on an isthmus of NW North Island. Area pop. 860,000.  
**au·cou·rant** (ō'koo-rānt') *adj.* Fully informed on current affairs; up-to-date. [Fr.: *au*, in the + *courant*, current.]  
**au·ction** (ōk'shən) *n.* 1. A public sale in which property or goods are sold to the highest bidder. 2. *Games*. The bidding in bridge. — *tr.v.* **-tioned, -tion·ing, -tions.** To sell at or by an auction: *auctioned off the inventory*. [Lat. *auctiō, auctiōn- < auctus, p.part. of augere, to increase. See aug-\**.]  
**auction bridge** *n.* *Games*. A variety of bridge in which tricks****

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Stress marks:  
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