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or-bit-al /áwrbit'ál/ *adj.* OF ORBITS belonging to or relating to an orbit ■ *n.* PHYS SPACE IN AN ATOM OCCUPIED BY AN ELECTRON a subdivision of the available space within an atom for an electron to orbit the nucleus. An atom has many orbitals, each of which has a fixed size and shape and can hold up to two electrons. — **or-bit-al-ly** *adv.*

or-bit-al space ve-hi-cle *n.* a vehicle that transports payloads to and from points in space having different orbits such as a space station, a satellite, and the Moon

or-bit-al ve-loc-i-ty *n.* the speed an object must maintain in order to remain in a given orbit. If the speed slows, the orbit will decay and the orbiting object will be drawn to the larger body.

or-bi-teer /áwrbi téer/ (**-teered**, **-teer-ing**, **-teers**) *vt.* to go up a high mountain without using climbing gear and by walking in ever higher circles until reaching the summit [Back-formation from ORBITEERING]

or-bi-teer-ing /áwrbi téer-ing/ *n.* the sport or practice of going up high mountains without using climbing gear and by walking in circles of ever higher altitude until reaching the top [Coined from ORBIT, on the model of "mountaineering" or "orienteering"]

or-bit-er /áwrbitér/ *n.* a spacecraft or satellite that is designed to orbit a celestial body but not to land on it

orb weav-er *n.* a spider that weaves a broad intricate web of silk to entrap its prey

or-ca /áwrkál/ *n.* = killer whale [Mid-19thC. Via modern Latin, former genus name, from Latin *orca* "large sea creature."]

orch. *abbr.* MUSIC 1. orchestra 2. orchestrated by

or-chard /áwrchárd/ *n.* 1. AREA OF FRUIT OR NUT TREES an area of land on which fruit or nut trees are grown, especially commercially 2. FRUIT OR NUT TREES COMMERCIALLY PLANTED all the fruit or nut trees growing in a particular area, planted for commercial reasons [Old English *ortgeard*, from an uncertain first element + *YARD*]

WORD KEY: CULTURAL NOTE

The Cherry Orchard, a play by the Russian dramatist Anton Chekhov (1903-04). Chekhov described his last play as a comedy, but it is often played as tragedy. It depicts the decline of the Ranyevskayas, a family of upper-class landowners, who despite being faced with bankruptcy refuse to contemplate merchant Lopakhin's suggestion that they sell their beloved cherry orchard.

or-chard grass *n.* a tall grass grown in many countries for pasture and hay. Latin name: *Dactylis glomerata*.

or-char-dist /áwrchárdist/ *n.* somebody who owns or manages an orchard

or-ches-tra /áwrkəstrá/ *n.* 1. MUSIC LARGE GROUP OF CLASSICAL MUSICIANS a large group of musicians playing classical music, consisting of sections of string, woodwind, brass, and percussion players, and directed by a conductor 2. MUSIC GROUP OF MUSICIANS a group of musicians, especially a fairly large group usually but not always playing classical music 3. THEATER PLACE FOR MUSICIANS IN THEATER the part of a theater where the musicians sit, immediately in front of the stage or under the front part of the stage 4. THEATER MAIN FLOOR OF THEATER the main floor of a theater 5. THEATER FRONT SEATS the front section of seats on the lower and main floor of a theater 6. THEATER PLACE FOR THE CHORUS the semicircular area in front of the stage in ancient Greek theaters, reserved for the chorus [Early 17thC. Via Latin, "space in front of the stage where the chorus danced," from Greek *orkhēstra*, from *orkheisthai* "to dance."]

or-ches-tral /áwr késtrel/ *adj.* relating to orchestras or intended for an orchestra, especially a symphony orchestra — **or-ches-tral-ly** *adv.*

or-ches-tra pit *n.* U.K. = orchestra

or-ches-trate /áwrkə stráy/ (**-trat-ed**, **-trat-ing**, **-trates**) *vt.* 1. MUSIC ARRANGE MUSIC FOR AN ORCHESTRA to arrange or compose music to be played by an orchestra 2. ORGANIZE SOMETHING to organize a situation or event unobtrusively so that a desired effect or outcome is achieved ○ *The press conference had clearly been carefully orchestrated.* — **or-ches-tra-tor** *n.*

or-ches-tra-tion /áwrkə stráysh'n/ *n.* 1. MUSIC MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT the arrangement of a piece of music to

or-ches-tri-on /áwr késtree ən/, **or-ches-tri-na** /áwrkə stréenə/ *n.* a mechanical musical instrument similar to a barrel organ, designed to imitate the sounds of an orchestra [Mid-19thC. Formed from ORCHESTRA on the model of *accordion*.]



Orchid

or-chid /áwrkid/ *n.* 1. FLOWERING PLANT any one of a large family of perennial plants prized for their beautiful and fragrant flowers and found mostly in tropical climates. Family: Orchidaceae. 2. ORCHID FLOWER a flower from an orchid plant, typically a delicate fragrant flower with three petals [Mid-19thC. From the Latin stem *orchid-*, which was mistakenly formed from *orchis* (see ORCHIS).]

or-chi-da-ceous /áwrki dáyshəss/ *adj.* relating to, belonging to, or characteristic of the orchid family [Mid-19thC. Formed from modern Latin *Orchidaceae*, family name of the orchid.]

or-chi-dec-to-my *n.* = orchiectomy [Late 19thC. Coined from Greek *orkhis* (see ORCHIS) + *-ectomy*.]

or-chid tree *n.* a Southeast Asian tree that belongs to the pea family and has purplish flowers and deeply lobed leaves. Latin name: *Bauhinia variegata*.

or-chi-ec-to-my /áwrkee éktəmeel/ (*plural -mies*), **or-chi-dec-to-my** (*plural -mies*) *n.* surgical removal of one or both testicles [Late 19thC. Coined from Greek *orkhis* (see ORCHIS) + *-ectomy*.]

or-chil /áwrkil, -chil/ *n.* 1. LICHEN a lichen that yields a reddish dye. Genera: *Rocella* and *Lecanora*. 2. RED DYE a reddish dye derived from an orchil lichen, obtained by treating the lichen with aqueous ammonia [15thC. Via Spanish *orchilla* from Catalan *orxella* of, ultimately, Arabic origin.]

or-chis /áwrkiss/ *n.* an orchid with a fleshy tuber and spikes of small flowers with spurred lips. Genus: *Orchis*. [Mid-16thC. Via Latin from Greek *orkhis*, literally "testicle" (from the tuber's shape).]

or-chi-tis /áwr kítiss/ *n.* inflammation of one or both testicles, usually caused by infection. It can also develop in mumps, and if both testicles are affected it may result in sterility. [Late 18thC. Via modern Latin, which was coined from Greek *orkhis* "testicle" + *-itis*.] — **or-chit-ic** /áwr kítikl/ *adj.*

OR cir-cuit /áwr- / *n.* a circuit with two or more inputs and one output, whose output is high if one input is high

ord. *abbr.* 1. BIOL order 2. ordinal 3. BIOL ordinance 4. ordinary 5. MIL ordnance

or-dain /áwr dáyn/ (**-dained**, **-dain-ing**, **-dains**) *vt.* 1. RELIG MAKE A RELIGIOUS APPOINTMENT to appoint somebody officially as a priest, minister, or rabbi ○ 2. COMMAND FORMALLY to order or establish something formally, especially by law or by another authority (*formal*) ○ *laws of commercial transactions that had long been ordained by the government* [13thC. Via Old French *ordener* from Latin *ordinare* "to set in order," from *ordo* (see ORDER).] — **or-dain-er** *n.*

or-deal /áwr deel/ *n.* 1. DIFFICULT EXPERIENCE a very difficult or harrowing experience, especially one lasting a long time 2. ANCIENT TRIAL a trial in the past that involved subjecting a defendant to life-threatening danger, e.g., from fire or water, with the outcome regarded as reflecting divine judgment [Old English *ordāl* "trial, judgment." Ultimately from a prehistoric Germanic base meaning "to share out" that is also the ancestor of English *deal*.]

or-der /áwrder/ *n.* 1. INSTRUCTION an instruction to do something 2. INSTRUCTION TO PROVIDE SOMETHING to do instruction to bring or supply something, e.g., a spoken instruction to a waiter or waitress, or a written instruction to a manufacturer or supplier of goods ○ *Can I take your order now?* 3. SOMETHING PROVIDED something provided in response to an instruction ○ *If you are not completely satisfied, you may return your order.* 4. NEATNESS an organized state, with elements arranged properly, neatly, or harmoniously ○ *We all need a little order in our lives.* 5. ARRANGEMENT OF ITEMS the way in which several items are arranged, as an indication of their relative importance or size or when each will be dealt with ○ *I will announce the winners in reverse order.* 6. ABSENCE OF CRIME a peaceful state in which laws are obeyed and misbehavior or crime is not present or is prevented ○ *maintaining order on our streets* 7. FUNCTIONING STATE the state something is in when it is functioning properly 8. SOCIAL GROUPING the arrangement of society into groups or classes and the relationships between them ○ *a new world order* 9. SOCIAL GROUP any one of the groups or classes into which a society is divided (*often used in the plural*) 10. BIOL SET OF RELATED FAMILIES a taxonomic classification made up of related families of organisms ○ *the cat family, in the order Carnivora* 11. TYPE a kind or type of something, often one judged on importance or worth ○ *Exactly what order of stupidity are we dealing with?* 12. LAW COURT'S INSTRUCTION an instruction issued by a judge or a court of law 13. FIN FINANCIAL INSTRUCTION a written instruction to pay money 14. **or-der**, **Or-der** RELIG RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY a religious community in which members live according to principles that are often based on the writings of a particular saint ○ *the Order of Saint Francis* 15. CHR RELIGIOUS RANK any one of the grades into which the ministry is divided in some Christian denominations, including deacons, priests, bishops, and archbishops 16. CHR RELIGIOUS SERVICE a form of Christian religious service used on specific occasions 17. **or-der**, **Or-der** GROUP OF HONORED PEOPLE a prestigious group consisting of people who have been awarded an honor for services to their country, or the decoration indicating such an honor ○ *the Order of the Garter* 18. ARCHIT ARCHITECTURAL STYLE any one of the five major styles of classical architecture, namely the Doric, Ionic, Corinthian, Tuscan, and Composite. They differ in the shapes and styles of columns and entablatures. 19. MATH NUMBER OF ROWS AND COLUMNS the number of rows and columns in a matrix 20. MATH NUMBER OF DIFFERENTIATIONS the number of times differentiation must be applied to a mathematical expression to obtain a specified derivative 21. MATH GROUP MEMBERS the number of elements in a finite group 22. SCI = **order of magnitude** 23. MATH ORDER OF HIGHEST ORDER DIFFERENTIAL in a differential equation, the order of the highest order differential 24. CHEM CLASSIFICATION OF CHEMICAL REACTIONS a classification of chemical reactions based on the mathematical relationship between the rate of a given chemical reaction and the concentration of the reacting chemical compounds ■ **or-ders** *npl.* = **holy orders** ■ *v.* (**-dered**, **-der-ing**, **-ders**) 1. *vt.* GIVE SOMEBODY INSTRUCTIONS to command somebody to do something ○ *The colonel ordered the troops to move out.* 2. *vt.* PRESCRIBE SOMETHING to give an instruction for something to be done 3. *vt.* REQUEST SOMETHING to give an instruction for something to be provided, e.g., food in a restaurant or merchandise from a manufacturer or supplier 4. *vt.* ARRANGE ITEMS to arrange items in a particular way, especially in the sequence in which they are to be dealt with ○ *addresses ordered by zip code* 5. *vt.* ARRANGE THINGS NEATLY to put things into a neat, well organized state or into the required state ○ *ordered her business affairs prior to leaving for the summer* ■ *interj.* CALL FOR CALM used to request calm or observance of correct procedure, e.g., by a person chairing a debate [13thC. Via French *ordre*, from, ultimately, Latin *ordin-*, the stem of *ordo* (source of English *ordinal*, *ordinate*, and *ordinary*). The underlying sense is "conforming to order."] — **or-der-er** *n.* ◇ in order 1. in a correct sequence or arrangement ○ *Put them in order alphabetically.* 2. in a condition of being correct or appropriate ○ *The customs official was checking that the paperwork was in order.* ◇ in order to or that ○ *used to introduce the object or purpose of something* ◇ *used to introduce the object or purpose of something*