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shuttlecock



Siamese cat

ing several stems arising from the base and lacking a single trunk; a bush. [ME *shrubbe* < OE *scrubb*. See *scrub<sup>1</sup>*.] *shrub<sup>2</sup>* (shrub) n. A beverage made from fruit juice, sugar, and a liquor such as rum or brandy. (< Ar. *šurb*, a drink < *šariba*, to drink.)

**shrub·bery** (shrub'ərē) n., pl. -beries. A group or planting of shrubs.

**shrub·by** (shrub'ē) adj. -bl'-er, -bl'-est. 1. Consisting of, planted with, or covered with shrubs. 2. Of or resembling a shrub.

-shrub'bl'-ness n.

**shrug** (shrag) v. shrugged, shrug·ging, shrugs. — tr. To raise (the shoulders), esp. as a gesture of doubt, disdain, or indifference. — intr. To shrug the shoulders. — n. 1. An expressive gesture of raising the shoulders. 2. A woman's short jacket or sweater open down the front. — phrasal verb. shrug off. 1. To minimize the importance of. 2. To get rid of. [ME *shrggen*.]

**shrunken** (shringkən) v. A p.t. and p.part. of shrink.

**shrunken·on** (shringkən'ən) v. A p.part. of shrink.

shrt. abbr. Short.

**shtetl** (shtet'l, shtet'l') n. A small Eastern European Jewish community of former times. [Yiddish < MHG Ger. *stetel*, dim. of *stet*, town < OHG Ger. place. See *stet<sup>1</sup>*.]

**stiltick** also **stichtick** or **stiftik** (stiftik) n. Slang. 1. A characteristic attribute, talent, or trait that is helpful in securing recognition or attention. 2. An entertainment routine or gimmick. [Yiddish *shifik*, piece, routine < MHG Ger. *sticke*, piece < OHG Ger. *stukki*, crust, fragment.]

**shuck** (shuk) n. 1.a. A husk, pod, or shell, as of an ear of corn, a pea, or a hickory nut. b. The shell of an oyster or a clam. 2. Informal. Something worthless. Often used in the plural: *didn't amount to shucks*. — tr.v. shucked, shuck·ing, shucks. 1. To remove the husk or shell from. 2. Informal. To cast off: *shucked their coats*. — interj. shucks (shuk). Used to express mild disappointment, disgust, or annoyance. [? — shuck'er n.

**shud·der** (shüd'ər) intr.v. -dared, -dar·ing, -ders. 1. To shiver convulsively, as from fear or revulsion. 2. To vibrate; quiver. — n. A convulsive shiver, as from fear or revulsion; a tremor. [ME *shodderen*, perh. of MDu. or MLG Ger. orig.]

**shuf·fle** (shüf'əl) v. -fled, -fling, -fles. — tr. 1. To slide [the feet] along the floor or ground while walking. 2. To move (something) from one place to another; transfer or shift. 3. To put aside or under cover quickly; shunt. 4. To mix together; jumble. 5. Games. To mix together (playing cards, tiles, or dominoes) so as to make a random order of arrangement. — intr. 1. To move with short sliding steps, without or barely lifting the feet. 2. To dance with sliding and tapping steps. 3. To move about from place to place; shift. 4. To act in a shifty or deceitful manner; equivocate. 5. Games. To shuffle playing cards, tiles, or dominoes. — n. 1. A short sliding step or movement or a walk characterized by such steps. 2. A dance in which the feet slide along or move close to the floor. 3. An evasive or deceitful action; an equivocation. 4. A confused mixture; a jumble. 5. Games. a. An act of shuffling cards, dominoes, or tiles. b. A player's right or turn to do this. [ME *shoufelen*, prob. of MDu. or MLG Ger. orig.] — shuf'fler n.

**shuf·fle·board** (shüf'əl-börd', -börd') n. Games. 1. A game in which disks are slid along a smooth surface toward one of two targets painted on the surface and divided into numbered scoring areas. 2. A surface on which this game is played. [Alteration of obsolete *shove-board*: *shove* + *board*.]

**shul** (shüłł, shööł) n. Judaism. A synagogue. [Yiddish < MHG Ger. *schul*, school < OHG Ger. *scuola* < Lat. *scola*. See *SCHOOL<sup>1</sup>*.]

**Shu·men** (shüö'men') n. A city of NE Bulgaria W of Varna; founded 927. Pop. 107,000.

**shun** (shün) tr.v. shunned, shun·ning, shuns. To avoid deliberately; keep away from. [ME *shunnen* < OE *scunian*, to abhor.] — shun'er n.

**shun·pike** (shün'pik') n. A side road taken to avoid the tolls or traffic of a turnpike. — intr.v. -piked, -pik·ing, -pikes. To travel on side roads, avoiding turnpikes. — shun'pik'er n.

**shunt** (shünt) n. 1. The act or process of turning aside or moving to an alternate course. 2. A railroad switch. 3. Elect. A low-resistance connection between two points in an electric circuit that forms an alternative path for a portion of the current. 4. Medic. A passage between two natural body channels, such as blood vessels, esp. one created surgically to divert or permit flow from one pathway or region to another; a bypass. — v. shunt·ed, shunt·ing, shunts. — tr. 1. To turn or move aside or onto another course. 2. To evade by putting aside or ignoring. 3. To switch (a train or car) from one track to another. 4. Elect. To provide or divert (current) by means of a shunt. — intr. 1. To move or turn aside. 2. Elect. To become diverted by means of a shunt. Used of a circuit. [ME *shunten*, to flinch.] — shunt'er n.

**shush** (shüsh) interj. Used to express a demand for silence.

— tr.v. shushed, shush·ing, shush·es. To demand silence from by saying "shush."

**shut** (shüt) v. shut, shut·ting, shuts. — tr. 1. To move (a door

or lid, for example) so as to block passage through. 2. To block entrance to or exit from; close.

with a lock, catch, or latch. 4. To confine in a closed space. 5. To exclude from or as if from a group.

6. To cause to stop operating: *shut down* a reactor.

1. To move or become moved so as to block passage.

2. To stop operating, esp. automatically: *The system shut off at midnight*. — n. 1. The act or time of closing a line of connection between welded pieces of metal parts. 2. To close off; isolate. *Sports*. To prevent (a competitor) from scoring any runs or points. *shut up*, (someone) to stop speaking; silence. 2. To shut up. — idiom. *shut (one's) eyes to*. To refuse to acknowledge. [ME *shuten* < OE *scytan*. See *shut*.] — *shut-down* (shüd'ən, shüdn') n. A cessation of operativity, as at a factory.

**Shute** (shüt), Nevil. Nevil Shute Norway. 1899-1960. English writer whose novels include *A Town Like Alice* and *On the Beach* (1957), both set in Australia.

**shut·eye** (shüt'ē) n. Slang. Sleep.

**shut-in** (shüt'in) n. A person confined indoors by disability. — adj. (shüt-in'). 1. Confined to a hospital, as by illness. 2. Disposed to avoid social contact.

**shut-off** (shüt'ōf', -ōf') n. 1. A device that shuts off. 2. A stoppage; a cessation.

**shut-out** (shüt'ōt') n. 1. See *lockout*. 2. Sports

which one side does not score.

**shut·ter** (shüt'ər) n. 1. One that shuts, as: a. A frame or screen for a window, usu. fitted with louvers. b. A mechanical device of a camera that opens and closes the duration of exposure of a plate or film to light. — *Mus.* 2. The movable louvers on a pipe organ, controlled by pedals, that open and close the swell box. — ter·ing, -ters. 1. To furnish or close with shutters. 2. To cause to cease operations; close down.

**shut·ter·bug** (shüt'ər-büg') n. Informal. An amateur photographer.

**shut·tie** (shüt'ē) n. 1. A device used in weaving to hold wool thread back and forth between the warp. 2. A device for holding the thread in tauting and stretching a sewing machine. 3.a. Regular travel back and forth established route by a vehicle. b. A vehicle used to transport passengers along such a route. 4. A space shuttle. — v. -tied, -tling, -ties. 1. To move or travel back and forth by or as if by a shuttle. 2. To cause to move back and forth frequently. — port by or as if by a shuttle. [ME *shuttle* < OE *shuttila*. See *shaud<sup>1</sup>*.] — shut·tier n.

**shut·tie·cock** (shüt'ē-kök') n. Sports. A small ball of cork or rubber with a conical crown of feathers used in badminton. — tr.v. -cocked, -cock·ing, -cocked. 1. To throw or send back and forth like a shuttlecock. 2. Diplomatic negotiations conducted by an official intermediary who travels frequently between countries involved. — shuttle diplomat n.

**shy<sup>1</sup>** (shy) adj. shy·er (shy'er), shy·est (shy'est) 1. timorous; bashful.

2. easily startled; timid. 2. a. Drawn into social contact or familiarity with others; retiring. b. Marked by reserve or diffidence. 3. Distressed.

4. Not having paid an amount due, as in paying a bill.

— intr.v. shied (shid), shy·ing, shies (shiz). — to move suddenly, as if startled; start. 2. To draw back in fear or caution; recoil. — n. pl. shies (shiz). A moment, as from fright; a start. [ME *shrey* < OE *sehri*. or n. — shy'ly adv. — shy'ness n.

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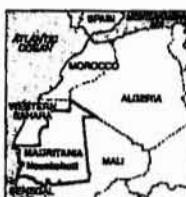
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matriculate  
Maugham



Matterhorn

Somerset Maugham  
Photographed in 1952

Mauritania



Mauritius

**ma·tri·cu·late** (mă-trik'yo-lăt') tr. & *intr.v.* -lat'-ed, -lat'-ing, -lates. To admit or be admitted into a group, esp. a college or university. — *n.* (-lt', lăt'). One who is admitted as a student to a college or university. [*< Med.Lat. matriculare, matriculat-* < LLat. *matricula*, list, dim. of *matrix*, *matri-*. See *MATRIX*.] — **ma·tri·cu·la·tor** (mă-trik'yo-lăt'ĕr) *n.* — **ma·tri·cu·la·tion** *n.*

**ma·tri·lin·e·age** (mă-tri-lin'ĕj) *n.* Line of descent as traced through the maternal side of a family.

**ma·tri·lin·e·al** (mă-tri-lin'ĕl) *adj.* Relating to, based on, or tracing ancestral descent through the maternal line. — *ma·tri·lin·e·al·ity* *adv.*

**ma·tri·lo·cal** (mă-tri-lo'kal) *adj.* *Anthro.* Of or relating to the residence of a wife's kin group or clan.

**ma·tri·mo·ny** (mă-tri-mō'ni) *n.*, pl. -nies. The act or state of being married; marriage. [*ME < OFr. matrimoine < Lat. matrimonium < māter, mātr-, mother. See MĀTER.*]

— *ma·tri·mo·ni·al* (mă-tri-mō'ni-äl) *adj.* — *ma·tri·mo·ni·al·ly* *adv.*

**matrimony vine** *n.* Any of various often thorny shrubs of the genus *Lycium*, some species of which are cultivated for their purplish flowers and brightly colored berries.

**ma·trix** (mă'trik) *n.*, pl. *ma·tri·ces* (mă'tri-sĕz', mă'trī-ĕz') or *ma·trix·es*. 1. A situation or surrounding substance within which something else originates, develops, or is contained. 2. The womb. 3. *Anat.* a. The formative cells or tissue of a fingernail, toenail, or tooth. b. See ground substance. 4. *Geol.* a. The solid matter in which a fossil or crystal is embedded. b. Groundmass. 5. A mold or die. 6. The principal metal in an alloy, as the iron in steel. 7. A binding substance, as cement in concrete. 8. *Math.* A rectangular array of numeric or algebraic quantities subject to mathematical operations. b. Something resembling such an array, as in the regular formation of elements into columns and rows. 9. *Comp. Sci.* The network of intersections between input and output leads in a computer, functioning as an encoder or a decoder. 10. *Print.* a. A mold used in stereotyping and designed to receive positive impressions of type or illustrations from which metal plates can be cast. b. A metal plate used for casting typefaces. [*ME matrices < OFr. < LLat. mātrix, mātric- < Lat., breeding-animal < māter, mātr-, mother. See MĀTER.*]

**matro-** *pref.* Var. of *matri-*.

**ma·tron** (mă'tron) *n.* 1. A married woman or a widow, esp. a mother of dignity, mature age, and established social position. 2. A woman who acts as supervisor or monitor in a public institution. [*ME matrone < Lat. mātrōna < māter, mātr-, mother. See MĀTER.*] — *ma·tron·il·ness* *n.* — *ma·tron·y* *adv.* & *adj.*

**matron of honor** *n.*, pl. *matrons of honor*. A married woman serving as chief attendant of the bride at a wedding.

**ma·tro·nym·ic** (mă'trō-nim'ik) *adj.* & *n.* Var. of *matronymic*.

**ma·su** (mă'sü). An island administered by Taiwan in the East China Sea off the SE coast of mainland China.

**Ma·tau·do** (mă-tsoō'dō). A city of E-central Honshu, Japan, a suburb of Tokyo. Pop. 427,479.

**Ma·tsu·ya·ma** (mă'tsō-yā'mă). A city of W Shikoku, Japan, on the Inland Sea. Pop. 426,646.

**Matt. abbr.** *Bible.* Matthew.

**Mat·tag·a·mi** (mă-tăg'ă-mē). A river of E Ontario, Canada, rising in Mattagami Lake and flowing c. 443 km (275 mi) N to the Moose R.

**matte<sup>1</sup>** (măt') *n.* Var. of *mat<sup>2</sup>*. 2. — *adj.* Var. of *mat<sup>2</sup>*.

**matte<sup>2</sup>** (măt') *n.* A mixture of a metal and its sulfides, made by smelting the sulfide ores of copper, lead, or nickel. [*Fr.*]

**mat·ted** (măt'ĕd) *adj.* 1. Covered with or made from mats. 2. Tangled in a dense mass: *matted undergrowth*.

**mat·ter** (măt'ĕr) *n.* 1. a. Something that occupies space and can be perceived by one or more senses; a physical body, a physical substance, or the universe as a whole. b. *Phys.* Something that has mass and exists as a solid, liquid, or gas. 2. A specific type of substance: *inorganic matter*. 3. Discharge or waste, such as pus or feces, from a living organism. 4. *Philos.* In Aristotelian and Scholastic use, that which is in itself undifferentiated and formless and which, as the subject of change and development, receives form and becomes substance and experience. 5. The substance of thought or expression as opposed to the manner in which it is stated or conveyed. 6. A subject of concern, feeling, or action. See *Syns at subject*. 7. Trouble or difficulty. 8. An approximated quantity, amount, or extent: *a matter of years*. 9. Something printed or otherwise set down in writing: *reading matter*. 10. Something sent by mail. 11. *Print.* a. Composed type. b. Material to be set in type. — *intr.v.* -tered, -ter·ing, -ters. To be of importance. See *Syns at count!* — *idioms*, as a matter of fact. In fact; actually, for that matter. So far as that is concerned; as for that; no matter. Regardless of. [*ME < OFr. matere < Lat. māteria. See MĀTER.*]

**mat·ter·horn** (măt'ĕr-hōrn', măl'ĕr-hōrn'). A mountain, 4,481.1 m (14,692 ft), in the Pennine Alps on the Italian-Swiss border.

**matter of course** *n.* A natural or logical outcome.

**mat·ter-of-fact** (măt'ĕr-ĕf-fĕkt') *adj.* 1. Relating or adhering

to facts; literal. 2. Straightforward or unemotional. — *matter-of-fact'ly* *adv.* — *mat·ter-of-factness* *n.*

**Mat·thew** (măt'hē) *n.* See table at *Bible*.

**Matthew, Saint**, 1st cent. AD. One of the 12

author of the first Gospel of the New Testa-

**Mat·thews** (măt'hēz), Stanley. 1824-18

sociate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. — *mat·the·ws* (măt'hēz) *n.* [used with a sing. or pl. s.

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