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ating in a manner essentially independent of external influence or control; self-moving. b. Self-regulating. 2. Lacking volition, intention, or conscious planning; involuntary; reflex. 3. Capable of firing continuously until ammunition is exhausted. Said of firearms. In this sense, also "full-automatic." Compare *semi-automatic*. —See Synonyms at *spontaneous*. —n. 1. An automatic firearm, especially an automatic pistol. 2. An automatic machine or device. [Greek *automatos*, acting by itself, spontaneous, acting of one's own will: AUTO- + *matos*, willing (see *men-* in Appendix*).] —*au-to-mat'i-cal-ly adv.*

au-tom-a-tic-i-ty (ô-tôm'â-tis'â-tē) *n.* 1. The state of being automatic. 2. Automatic action.

automatic pilot. An aircraft control mechanism that automatically maintains altitude, preset course, and steadiness. Also called "autopilot," "robot pilot."

automatic pistol. A pistol that can be fired automatically or semiautomatically.

automatic rifle. A light machine gun that can be fired automatically or semiautomatically, normally the latter.

au-to-ma-tion (ô'ta-mâ'shən) *n.* 1. The automatic operation or control of a process, equipment, or a system. 2. The totality of mechanical and electronic techniques and equipment used to achieve such operation or control. 3. The condition of being automatically controlled or operated. [From AUTOMATIC.] —*au-to-ma'tive adj.*

au-tom-a-tism (ô-tôm'â-tiz'əm) *n.* 1. a. The state or quality of being automatic. b. Automatic mechanical action. 2. *Philosophy.* The theory that all living organisms are automatons. 3. *Physiology.* a. The automatic operation of organs and cells, such as the beating of the heart. b. Performance of an act without conscious control, as in the operation of the reflexes. 4. The effort at suspension of consciousness made by certain surrealist writers and artists in order to express subconscious ideas and feelings. [AUTOMAT(ON) + -ISM.] —*au-tom'a-tist n.*

au-tom-a-ton (ô-tôm'â-tŏn, -tŏn') *n., pl. -tons or -ta (-tə).* 1. A robot (see). 2. One that behaves in an automatic or mechanical fashion. [Latin, self-operating machine, from Greek *automaton*, neuter of *automatos*, AUTOMATIC.] —*au-tom'a-tous adj.*

au-to-mo-bile (ô'ta-mô-bēl', -mô'bēl', ô'ta-mô-bēl') *n.* A self-propelled land vehicle, as a four-wheeled passenger vehicle propelled by an internal-combustion engine. —*adj.* Automobile. [French: AUTO- + MOBILE.] —*au-to-mo-bil'ist n.*

au-to-mo-tive (ô'ta-mô'tiv) *adj.* *Abbr.* auto. 1. Self-moving; self-propelling. 2. Of or pertaining to self-propelled vehicles.

au-to-nom-ic (ô'ta-nôm'ik) *adj.* Also *au-to-nom-i-cal* (-l-kəl). 1. Independent; autonomous. 2. *Physiology.* Of or pertaining to the autonomic nervous system. 3. Resulting from internal causes; self-generated; spontaneous. —*au-to-nom'i-cal-ly adv.*

autonomic nervous system. The division of the vertebrate nervous system that regulates involuntary action, as of the intestines, heart, and glands, and comprises the sympathetic nervous system and the parasympathetic nervous system.

au-ton-o-mous (ô-tŏn'ô-məs) *adj.* 1. a. Independent. b. Self-contained. 2. a. Independent of the laws of another state or government; self-governing. b. Of or pertaining to an autonomy. 3. Autonomic. [Greek *autonomos*, self-ruling: AUTO- + *nomos*, law (see *nom-* in Appendix*).] —*au-ton'ô-mous-ly adv.*

au-ton-o-my (ô-tŏn'ô-mē) *n., pl. -mies.* 1. The condition or quality of being self-governing. 2. Self-government or the right of self-government; self-determination; independence. 3. A self-governing state, community, or group. [Greek *autonomia*, from *autonomos*, AUTONOMOUS.] —*au-ton'ô-mist n.*

au-to-phyte (ô'ta-fit') *n.* *Botany.* An autotrophic plant. [AUTO- + PHYTE.] —*au-to-phyt'ic* (-fit'ik) *adj.*

au-to-pi-lot (ô'tô-pi-lŏt) *n.* An automatic pilot (see).

au-to-plas-ty (ô'tô-plās'tē) *n.* Surgical repair or replacement with tissue taken from the same body as that on which the surgery is performed. [AUTO- + PLASTY.] —*au-to-plas'tic adj.* —*au-to-plas'ti-cal-ly adv.*

au-top-sy (ô'tŏp'sē, ô'tăp-) *n., pl. -sies.* The examination of a dead body to determine the cause of death. Also called "necropsy," "post-mortem." [New Latin *autopsia*, from Greek, a seeing for oneself: AUT(O)- + Greek *opsis*, sight (see *okw-* in Appendix*).] —*au-top'sic, au-top'si-cal adj.* —*au-top'sist n.*

au-to-some (ô'ta-sŏm') *n.* Any chromosome that is not a sex chromosome. [AUTO- + (CHROMO)SOME.] —*au-to-so'mal* (-sŏ'məl) *adj.*

au-to-sug-ges-tion (ô'tô-sag-jēs'chən) *n.* *Psychology.* The process by which a person induces self-acceptance of an opinion, belief, or plan of action. —*au-to-sug-ges'ti-bil'i-ty n.* —*au-to-sug-ges'ti-ble adj.* —*au-to-sug-ges'tive adj.*

au-to-to-mize (ô-tô'tô-miz') *v., -mizad, -mizing, -mizes.* —*tr.* To cause the autotomy of (a body part). —*intr.* To undergo autotomy.

au-tot-o-my (ô-tô'tô-mē) *n.* *Zoology.* The spontaneous casting off of a body part, as the tail of certain lizards, for self-protection. [AUTO- + TOMY.] —*au-to-tom'ic* (ô'ta-tŏm'ik) *adj.*

au-to-tox-æ-mi-a (ô'tô-tŏk-sē'mē-ə) *n.* Also *au-to-tox-æ-mi-a*, *au-to-tox-i-co-sis* (-tŏk'si-kŏ'sis). *Pathology.* Autointoxication (see). [AUTO- + TOXEMIA.]

au-to-tox-in (ô'tô-tŏk'sin) *n.* A poison that acts on the organism in which it is generated. —*au-to-tox'ic adj.*

au-to-trans-form-er (ô'tô-trāns-fŏr'mər) *n.* An electrical transformer in which the primary and secondary coils have some or all windings in common.

au-to-troph (ô'ta-trŏf') *n.* *Biology.* An autotrophic organism, such as a green plant. [Back-formation from AUTOTROPHIC.]

au-to-troph-ic (ô'ta-trŏf'ik, -trŏf'ik) *adj.* *Biology.* Designating or characterizing plants or plantlike organisms capable of man-

ufacturing their own food by synthesis of inorganic materials, as in photosynthesis. [AUTO- + TROPHIC.] —*au-to-troph'i-cal-ly adv.* —*au-tot'ro-phy* (ô-tŏt'rŏ-fē) *n.*

au-to-truck (ô'tô-trŭk') *n.* A truck operated by a motor.

au-tumn (ô'təm) *n.* 1. The season of the year between summer and winter, lasting from the autumnal equinox to the winter solstice and from September to November in the Northern Hemisphere; fall. 2. A time or period of maturity verging on decline. [Middle English *autumpne*, from Old French *autompne*, from Latin *autumnus*, possibly from Etruscan.] —*au-tum'nal* (-tŭm'nəl) *adj.* —*au-tum'nal-ly adv.*

autumnal equinox. The equinox (see) of September 22 or 23 when the sun crosses the celestial equator going north to south, marking the start of autumn. Compare *vernal equinox*.

autumn crocus. A plant, *Colchicum autumnale*, native to Europe and northern Africa, having pink or purplish flowers that bloom in the fall. Also called "meadow saffron."

au-tun-ite (ô-tŭn'it', ô'tŭn-it') *n.* A yellowish fluorescent, minor ore of uranium with composition $Ca(UO_2)_2(PO_4)_2 \cdot 10H_2O$. [First found at *Autun*, town in France.]

Au-vergne (ô-värn') *n.* A region of central France.

aux. auxiliary.

aux-e-sis (ôg-zē'sis, ôk-sē') *n.* *Biology.* An increase in the size of a cell without cell division. [Greek *auxēsis*, growth, from *auxein*, to grow, increase. See *aug-* in Appendix.*]

aux-ili-a-ry (ôg-zil'i-er-ē, -zil'ar-ē) *adj.* *Abbr.* aux. 1. Giving assistance or support; aiding; helping. 2. Subsidiary; supplementary; additional. 3. Held in or used as a reserve: *auxiliary troops*. 4. *Nautical.* Equipped with a motor to supplement the sails. —*n., pl. auxiliaries.* 1. One that assists or helps; an assistant. 2. A group or organization that assists or is supplementary to a larger one: *a women's auxiliary*. 3. *Plural.* Foreign troops serving a country in war. 4. An auxiliary verb. 5. *Nautical.* A sailing vessel equipped with a motor. 6. *Naval.* A vessel designed for and used in other than combat services, such as a tug or a supply ship. [Latin *auxiliarius*, from *auxilium*, help. See *aug-* in Appendix.*]

auxiliary verb. *Grammar.* A verb that accompanies particular forms of the main verb of a clause to form a phrasal unit expressing the tense, mood, voice, or aspect of the main verb. *Have, may, can, must, and will* are some auxiliary verbs: *He will come. You must go.*

aux-in (ôk'sin) *n.* Any of several plant hormones, or similar substances produced synthetically, that affect growth by causing larger, elongated cells to develop. [Greek *auxein*, to grow (see *aug-* in Appendix*) + -IN] —*aux-in'ic adj.*

Av (ôv, äb) *n.* Also **Ab** (äb, ôv). The 11th month of the year on the Hebrew calendar, usually coinciding with August. See *calendar*. [Hebrew *ābh*, from Akkadian *abu*.]

av. 1. avenue. 2. average. 3. avoidupois.

av. avenue.

av. ad valorem.

A.V. 1. audio-visual. 2. Authorized Version.

avail (ô-vāil') *v.* *availed, availing, avails.* —*tr.* To be of use or advantage to; to assist; to help: *Nothing can avail him now.* —*intr.* To be of use, value, or advantage; serve: *avail (oneself) of.* To make use of. —*n.* Use, benefit, or advantage. Now used chiefly in the phrase *to (or of) no avail*. [Middle English *availlen*: *a-* (intensive) + *vallen*, to avail, from Old French *valoir* (stem *vail-*), to be worth, from Latin *valere*, to be strong, be worth (see *val-* in Appendix*).] —*avail'ing-ly adv.*

av-ail-a-ble (ô-vāil'ô-bal) *adj.* Accessible for use; at hand; usable. —*av-ail'a-bil'i-ty, av-ail'a-ble-ness n.* —*av-ail'a-bly adv.*

av-a-lanche (äv'ô-lānch', -lānch') *n.* 1. A fall or slide of a large mass of snow, rock, or other material down a mountainside. 2. Something resembling such an overwhelming fall or slide. —*v.* *avalanched, -lanching, -lanches.* —*intr.* To fall, as an avalanche. —*tr.* To overwhelm. [French, from Swiss French *avalants*, from Savoyard *lavantse*, from Vulgar Latin (unattested) *labancat*.]

avalanche lily. A plant, *Erythronium montanum*, of western North America, having nodding white flowers. [So called because it grows near the snow line and blooms when the snow begins to melt.]

Av-a-lon (äv'ô-lŏn'). Also **Av-al-lon.** *Celtic Mythology.* An island paradise in the western seas where King Arthur and other heroes went at death.

Av-a-lon Peninsula (äv'ô-lŏn'). A peninsula, about 4,000 square miles in area, of southeastern Newfoundland, Canada; the site of its capital, St. John's.

a-vant-gar-de (ä'vānt-gärd', French ä-vān-gärd') *n.* 1. A group, as of writers and artists, regarded as pre-eminent in the invention and application of new techniques in a given field. 2. The admirers of such a group and critics acting as its spokesmen. —*adj.* 1. Of or belonging to the vanguard, as in the arts. 2. Ahead of the times. [French, VANGUARD.]

av-a-ri-ce (äv'ô-ris') *n.* An extreme desire to amass wealth; cupidity. [Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *avaritia*, from *avarus*, greedy, from *avēre*, to desire.]

av-a-ri-cious (äv'ô-rish'əs) *adj.* Immoderately fond of accumulating wealth. —*av'a-ri-cious-ly adv.* —*av'a-ri-cious-ness n.*

a-vast (ô-väst', ô-väst') *interj.* A nautical command to desist: *Avast heaving there.* [Shortened from Dutch *houd vast*, "hold fast": *houd*, imperative of *houden*, to hold, from Middle Dutch (see *ket-* in Appendix*) + *vast*, fast, from Middle Dutch (see *past-* in Appendix*).]

av-a-tar (äv'ô-tär') *n.* 1. a. One regarded as the incarnation or embodiment of some known model or category. b. An entity regarded as an extreme or notably complete manifestation of its



avatar
Vishnu as a boar
in his third avatar

ä pat/ä pay/är care/ä father/b bib/ch church/d deed/ë pet/ë be/f fife/g gag/h hat/hw which/i pit/i pie/ir pier/j judge/k kick/l lid, needle/m mum/n no, sudden/ng thing/ö pot/ö toe/ö paw, for/oi noise/ou out/öo took/öo boot/p pop/r roar/s sauce/sh ship, dish/