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Elizabeth J. Jewell Frank Abate

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Erin McKean



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noting or relating enior magistrate sul and praeto la curulis l'curul early 17th cent iot' (in which the he seat of office

of a woman or; actively curved

the fact of being ething is curved earth | it has a dis metry the degree traight line, or ie. • a numerical ddle English viz rom curvare (see

it gradually denr all of its length: d curve. a place tht path: the yeld ing contour of: graph (whether e quantity varies ion curve. a sys o students based her students, re of the subject pall another term

ntrans.) her mouth is with long curve the retched, curve the from Latin or-The noun dates

a ball that is 1 a strong downo drop suddenly ne plate. raceful or ener-

ing) [intrans.] ran rgetically. Plate inutive of cores

ontained by or these designs and 18th cent.: from n the pattern of

with a curved

rv-i-est) having ı informal (esp. of ptuous. -cury

e-dwelling mar-hensile tail, naustralia. • Fost several species. cuscus maculates entalis). See also ench and Dutch lands.

(esp. of water) d. Searly 20th cond.

est son of Ham 2 the souther ned in Egyptian ne Bible it is the

ottish a wood p gin. ishaw squasi y with a curved origin. rcush yam) es a number PEE. • Dioscor dible tuber ate 19th cent be nominated by President Washington to serve as an associate justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Cushing's dis-ease /'kooshingz/ ≯n. Cushing's syndrome as caused by a tumor of the pituitary gland. Cush-ing's syn-drome ▶n. Medicine a metabolic disorder caused by overproduction of corticosteroid order caused by overproduction of corrected hormones by the adrenal cortex and often involving obesity and high blood pressure. P1930s: named after Harvey W. Cushing (1869–1939), American sur-

cush-ion /ˈkoosнən/ ▶n. a pillow or pad stuffed with a mass of soft material, used as a comfortable support for sitting or leaning on. something providing support or protection against impact: the pad ing support or protection against impact; the pad forms a cushion between carpet and floor | figurative a poil showed the candidate with a 14-point cushion. In the elastic lining of the sides of a billiard table, from which the ball rebounds. In the layer of air supporting a hovercraft or similar vehicle.

V. [trans.] soften the effect of an impact on: the bag cushions equipment from inevitable knocks. In figurative mitigate the adverse effects of: he called for federal asmiligate the adverse effects of ne canted for federal assistance to cushion the blow for farmers. PMiddle English: from Old French cuissin, based on a Latin word meaning 'cushion for the hip,' from coxa 'hip, thigh'.—cush-ioned adj.—cush-ion-y adj. cush-ion capi-ital *n. Architecture a capital resem-

cusnion capital *n. Atomecture a capital resembling a cushion pressed down by a weight, seen particularly in Romanesque churches.

Cushitic /koosh'itik; kosh-/ *n. a group of East African languages of the Afro-Asiatic family spoken mainly in Ethiopia and Somalia, including Somali and Oromo.

>adj. of or relating to this group of languages. ▶early 20th cent.: from Cush + -ITIC.

cushy !'kŏoshē| ≯adj. (cushi-ier, cushi-iest) informal
1 (of a job, task, or situation) undemanding, easy, or
secure: cushy jobs that pay you to ski. 2 (of furniture)
comfortable. ▷World War I (originally Anglo-Indian): from Urdu kushi 'pleasure,' from Persian kuš. -cush-i-ness n.

cusk /kəsk/ ▶n. another term for TORSK. ▷early 17th cent.: of unknown origin.

cusk-eel >n. a small, eellike fish with a tapering body and fins that form a pointed tail, typically found in deep water. • Family Ophididae: numerous genera.

cusp /kəsp/ ►n. 1 a pointed end where two curves meet, in particular: # Architecture a projecting point between small arcs in Gothic tracery. a coneshaped prominence on the surface of a tooth, esp. of a molar or premolar.

Anatomy a pocket or fold in the wall of the heart or a major blood vessel that fills and distends if the blood flows backward, so forming part of a valve. Mathematics a point at which the direction of a curve is abruptly reversed.

each of the pointed ends of a crescent, esp. of the moon. 2 Astrology the initial point of an astrological sign or house: he was Aries on the cusp with Taurus.

Iguralive a point between two different situations or states, when a person or thing is poised between the two or just about to move from one to the other: those on the cusp of adulthood. Plate 16th cent. (sense 2): from Latin cuspis 'point or apex.' —cus-pate /kespet; -,pāt/ adj. —cus-ped adj. —cus-pi-date /'kəspə,dāt/ adj.

cus pid / kespid/ In. a tooth with a single cusp or point; a canine tooth. Dmid 18th cent.: from Latin cuspis, cuspid- 'point or apex.'

cuspildor /ˈkəspəˌdör/ トn. a spittoon. ▷mid 18th cent.: from Portuguese, literally 'spitter'. cusping /ˈkəspine/ トn. 1 formation of a cusp or

cusps: if you use the incorrect pressure there will be serious cusping and uneven wear on the tire. 2 Architecture a decorative feature consisting of cusps.

cuss [kas] informal > n. 1 an annoying or stubborn person or animal: he was certainly an unsociable cuss. 2 another term for curse (sense 2).

v. another term for curse (sense 2).

cussed /'kesed/ radj. informal stubborn; annoying: why do you have to be so cussed? Dmid 19th cent. (originally U.S.): variant of cursep. —cuss-ed-ly adv. cuss ed ness n.

cuss word ▶n. informal a swear word.

custard / Nostord/ ►n. a dessert or sweet sauce made with milk, eggs, and sugar. ►late Middle English oustarde, custarde (denoting an open pie containing

SWEETSOP. 2 the tree that bears this fruit, native to Central and South America. • Genus Annona, family Annonaceae: several species.

Cus-ter /'kəstər/, George (Armstrong) (1839-76), U.S. cavalry officer. He served with distinction during the Civil War. In 1876, he was killed, along with all of his men (266) in a clash (popularly known as Custer's Last Stand) with the Sioux Indians at Little Bighorn in Montana.

cus-to-di-an /kəs'tôdêən/ ≯n. a person who has responsibility for or looks after something, such as a museum, financial assets, or a culture or tradition: the custodians of pension and insurance funds. **=** a person employed to clean and maintain a building. Plate 18th cent.: from custopy, on the pattern of guardian. -cus-to-di-an-ship /-,ship/ n.

cus-to-dy |'kəstədē| ▶n. the protective care or guardianship of someone or something: the property was placed in the custody of a trustee. ■ imprisonment: my father was being taken into custody. ■ Law parental my Jamer was being linker into custody. Law yachted responsibility, esp. as allocated to one of two divorcing parents: he was trying to get custody of their child. Plate Middle English: from Latin custodia, from custos 'guardian.' —cus-to-di-al/,ka'stôdēəl/ adj.

cus-tom /'kəstəm/ >n. 1 a traditional and widely accepted way of behaving or doing something that is specific to a particular society, place, or time: the old English custom of dancing around the maypole | custom demanded that a person should have gifts for the child. | in sing. | a thing that one does habitually: it was my custom to nap for an hour every day. Law established practice or usage having the force of law or right. 2 chiefly Bilt. regular dealings with a shop or business by customers: if you keep me waiting, I will take my custom elsewhere.

>adj. made or done to order for a particular customer: a custom guitar. ▷Middle English: from Old French coustume, based on Latin consuetudo, from consuetus, past participle of consuescere 'accustom,' from con- (expressing intensive force) + suescere 'become accustomed.

cus-tom-al ▶n. variant spelling of custumal.

cus-tom-ary /'kəstə merē/ ►adj. according to the cus-toms or usual practices associated with a particular society, place, or set of circumstances: it is customary to mark an occasion like this with a toast. = according to a person's habitual practice: I put the kettle on for our customary cup of tea. • Law established by or based on custom rather than common law or statute.

n. (pl. -ar-ies) historical another term for custumal. plate Middle English (as a noun): from medieval Latin custumarius, from custuma, from Anglo-Norman French custume (see custom). —cus-tom-ar-i-ly I,keste me(e)relē/ adv. - cus-tom-ar-i-ness n.

cus-tom-built >adj. another term for custom-MADE. cus-tom-er /'kestemer/ >n. 1 a person or organization that buys goods or services from a store or business: Mr. Harrison was a regular customer at the Golden Lion [as adj.] customer service. 2 a person or thing of a specified kind that one has to deal with: the fish is a slippery customer and very hard to catch | Jon won over Lucie's father, but her mother is a tough customer.

cus-tom house (also cus-toms house) ▶n. chiefly historical the office at a port or frontier where customs duty is collected.

cus-tom-ize /'keste,miz/ ▶v. [trans.] (often be customized) modify (something) to suit a particular individual or task: the suit can be customized for every skydiving need.

cus-tom-made > adj. made to a particular customer's

cus toms / kəstəmz/ > plural n. the official department that administers and collects the duties levied by a government on imported goods: cocaine seizures by customs have risen this year | [as adj.] a customs officer. ■ the place at a port, airport, or frontier where offi-cials check incoming goods, travelers, or luggage: arriving refugees were whisked through customs. ■ (usu. customs duties) the duties levied by a government on imported goods. Date Middle English: originally in the singular, denoting a customary due paid to a ruler, later duty levied on goods on their way to market.

cus-toms un-ion ▶n. a group of countries that have agreed to charge the same import duties as each other and usually to allow free trade between them-

custumale 'customs book,' neuter of custumalis, from custuma 'custom.

cut /ket/ >v. (cut-ting; past and past part. cut) [trans.] 1 make an opening, incision, or wound in (something) with a sharp-edged tool or object: he cut his big toe on a sharp stone | he cut open MacKay's face with the end of his hockey stick | |intrans.| figurative his scorn cut deeper than knives. 2 remove (something) from something larger by using a sharp implement: I cut his photograph out of the paper | some prisoners had their right hands cut off. informal castrate (an animal, esp. a horse). remove the foreskin of a penis; circumcise. (cut something out) make something by cutting: I cut out some squares of paper. | (cut something out) remove, exclude, or stop eating or doing something undesirable: start today by cutting out fatty foods.

(cut something out) separate an animal from the main herd. 3 divide into pieces with a knife or other sharp implement: cut the beef into this sices he cut his food up into teeny pieces. I make divisions in (something): land that has been cut up by streams into forested areas. separate (something) into two; sever: they cut the rope before he choked. (cut something down) make something, esp. a tree, fall by cutting it through at the base. (cut someone down) (of a weapon, bullet, or disease) kill or injure someone: Barker had been cut down by a sniper's bullet. 4 make or form (something) by using a sharp tool to remove material: workmen cut a hole in the pipe. • make or design (a garment) in a particular way: [as adj.] (cut) an impeccably cut chalk-stripe suit. make (a path, tunnel, or other route) by excavation, digging, or chopping: plans to cut a road through a rain forest | [intrans.] investigators called for a machete to cut through the bush | figurative a large woman with a voice that cut through crowds. 5 trim or reduce the length of (something, esp. grass or a person's hair or fingernails) by using a sharp implement: cutting the lawn | cut back all the year's growth to about four leaves. 6 reduce the amount or quantity of: buyers will bargain hard to cut the cost of the house they want | 1 should cut down my sugar intake | [intrans.] they've cut back on costs | the state passed a law intrans; they we the back on costs the state paster at the to cut down on drunk-driving | the paper glut cuts into profits, washidge (a text, movie, or performance) by removing material; he had to cut unnecessary additions made to the opening scene. We Computing delete (part of a text or other display) completely or so as to insert a copy of it elsewhere. See also CUT AND PASTE. I (in sports) remove (a player) from a team's roster. or interrupt the provision of (something, esp. power or food supplies): we resolved to cut oil supplies to territories controlled by the rebels | if the pump develops a fault, the electrical supply is immediately cut off. \(\bigcirc \text{(cut something off)} \) block the usual means of access to a place: the caves were cut off from the outside world by a land-slide. absent oneself deliberately from (something one should normally attend, esp. school): Robert was cutting class. switch off (an engine or a light). 7 (of a line) cross or intersect (another line): the point where the line cuts the vertical axis. | [intrans.] (cut across) pass or traverse, esp. so as to shorten one's route: the following aircraft cut across to join him. " [intrans.] (cut across) have an effect regardless of (divisions or boundaries between groups): subcultures that cut across national and political boundaries. | intrans. (cut along) informal, dated leave or move hurriedly: you can cut along now. **8** dated ignore or refuse to recognize (someone). **9** [intrans., often in imperative] stop filming or recording. move to another shot in a movie: cut to a dentist's surgery. m[trans.] make (a movie) into a coherent whole by removing parts or placing them in a different order, 10 make (a sound recording). 11 divide (a pack of playing cards) by lifting a portion from the top, either to reveal or draw a card at random or to place the top portion under the bottom portion. 12 Golfslice (the ball). 13 adulterate (a drug) or dilute (alcohol) by mixing it with another substance: speed cut with rat poison. 14 (cut it) informal come up to expectations; meet requirements: this CD player doesn't quite cut it. [shortened form of the idiom cut the mustard.]

▶phrasal v. □ cut in 1 interrupt someone while they are speaking: "It's urgent," Raoul cut in. ■ dated interrupt a dancing couple to take over from one partner. 2 pull in too closely in front of another vehicle after having overtaken it: she cut in on a station wagon, forcing the driver to brake. 3 (of a motor or other mechanical device) begin operating, esp. when

Pronunciation Key a non-arover 'a or a un: 'aror ar

