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A LAUREL BOOK

Published by
Dell Publishing
a division of
Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group, Inc.
1540 Broadway
New York, New York 10036

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ISBN: 0-440-21861-6

Reprinted by arrangement with Houghton Mifflin Company

Printed in the United States of America

Published simultaneously in Canada

30 29 28 27 26

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seed, 1. To pass into the seed-bearing stage. 2. To deteriorate. [*< OE sæd.*]

seed•ling (sēd' līng) *n.* A young plant grown from a seed.

seed•pod (sēd' pōd') *n.* See *pod*¹.

seed•y (sē'dē) *adj.* -i•er, -i•est. 1. Having many seeds. 2. Worn and shabby; run-down. —*seed'ly adv.* —*seed'i•ness n.*

see•ing (sē' īng) *conj.* Inasmuch as.

seek (sēk) *v.* sought (sōt), seek•ing. 1. To search for. 2. To try to obtain or reach. 3. To try; endeavor: *seek to do good.* [*< OE sēcan.*] —*seek'er n.*

Syns: seek, hunt, quest, search v.

seem (sēm) *v.* 1. To give the impression of being. 2. To appear to one's own mind. 3. To appear to be true or evident. 4. To appear to exist. [*< ON sēma, conform to.*]

Syns: seem, appear, look v.

seem•ing (sē' mīng) *adj.* Apparent; ostensible. —*seem'ing n.* —*seem'ing•ly adv.*

seem•ly (sēm' lē) *adj.* -li•er, -li•est. 1. Proper; suitable. 2. Of pleasing appearance. [*< ON sēmlīgr.*] —*seem'li•ness n.*

seen (sēn) *v.* P. part. of *see*¹.

seep (sēp) *v.* 1. To pass slowly through small openings. 2. To enter, depart, or spread gradually. [*< dial. sipe.*] —*seep'age n.*

seer (sīr) *n.* 1. A clairvoyant. 2. A prophet.

seer•suck•er (sīr' sūk' ər) *n.* A light thin fabric with a crinkled surface and a usu. striped pattern. [*< Pers. shiroshakar, milk and sugar.*]

see•saw (sē'sō') *n.* 1. A long plank balanced on a central fulcrum so that with a person riding on each end, one end goes up as the other goes down. 2. The game of riding a seesaw. 3. A back-and-forth or up-and-down movement. [*< saw¹.*] —*see'saw' v.*

seethe (sēth) *v.* seethed, seeth•ing. 1. To churn and foam as if boiling. 2. To be violently agitated. [*< OE seōthan.*]

seg•ment (sēg'mənt) *n.* A part into which something can be divided; section. —*v.* (sēg'mənt'). To divide into segments. [Lat. *segmentum.*] —*seg'men'tal adj.* —*seg'men'ta'tion n.*

seg•re•gate (sēg'rī-gāt') *v.* -gat•ed, -gat•ing. 1. To separate or isolate from others or from a main body or group. See *Syns* at *isolate*. 2. To impose the separation of a race or class from the rest of society. [Lat. *sēgregāre.*] —*seg're•ga'tion n.* —*seg're•ga'tion•ist adj.* & *n.* —*seg're•ga'tor n.*

se•gue (sēg' wā', sā'gwā') *v.* -gued, -gu•ing. 1. *Mus.* To make a transition directly from one section or theme to another. 2. To move smoothly from one situation or element to another. [*< Ital., there follows.*]

seign•ior (sān-yōr', sān'yōr') *n.* A feudal lord. [*< VLat. *senior.*] —*seign'ior'ial adj.*

seine (sān) *n.* A large fishing net made to hang vertically in the water by weights and floats. —*v.* seined, sein•ing. To fish with a seine. [*< Gk. sagēnē.*] —*sein'er n.*

Seine (sān, sēn). A river of N France flowing c. 772 km (480 mi) to the English Channel near Le Havre.

seis•mic (sīz'mīk) *adj.* Of or caused by an earthquake. —*seis'mī•cal•ly adv.* —*seis'mīc'i•ty* (-mīs' i-tē) *n.*

seismo- or **seis-** *pref.* Earthquake: *seismograph.* [*< seismos.*]

seis•mo•graph (sīz'mə-grāf') *n.* An instrument for automatically detecting and recording the intensity and duration of ground movements, esp. of earthquakes. —*seis•mog'ra•pher* (-mōg'rə-fər) *n.* —*seis'mo•graph'ic adj.* —*seis•mog'ra•phy n.*

seis•mol•o•gy (sīz-mōl' ə-jē) *n.* The geophysical science of earthquakes and the mechanical properties of the earth. —*seis'mo•log'ic* (-mə-lōj' ik), *seis'mo•log'i•cal adj.* —*seis'mol' o•gist n.*

seize (sēz) *v.* seized, seiz•ing. 1. To grasp suddenly and forcibly. 2. To have a sudden forceful effect on. 3. To take into custody; confiscate. [*< OFr. seisir.*]

sei•zure (sē'zhər) *n.* 1. The act of seizing or being seized. 2. A sudden attack or spasm, as in epilepsy or another disorder.

sel•dom (sēl'dəm) *adv.* Not often; rarely. [*< OE seldan.*] —*sel'dom•ness n.*

se•lect (sī-lēkt') *v.* To choose from among several; pick out. —*adj.* 1. Singled out; chosen. 2. Of special quality; choice. [Lat. *sēligere, sēlect.*] —*se•lec'tive adj.* —*se•lec'tive•ly adv.* —*se•lec'tiv'i•ty n.* —*se•lect'ness n.* —*se•lec'tor n.*

se•lect•ee (sī-lēk'tē) *n.* One selected.

se•lec•tion (sī-lēk'shən) *n.* 1. a. The act of selecting or the fact of being selected. b. One selected. 2. A carefully chosen collection. 3. A literary or musical text chosen for reading or performance. 4. *Biol.* A process that favors survival and perpetuation of one organism over others.

selective service *n.* A system for calling up people for compulsory military service.

se•lect•man (sī-lēk't'mān'; -mən) *n.* One of a board of town officers chosen annually in New England communities. See *Usage Note* at *man*.

se•lect•wom•an (sī-lēk't'wōd'm'ən) *n.* A woman who is a selectman.

se•le•ni•um (sī-lē'nē-əm) *n.* *Symbol* Se A nonmetallic element resembling sulfur, used as a semiconductor and in photocells. At. no. 34. See *table* at *element*. [*< Gk. selēnē, moon.*]

Se•leu•ci•a (sī-lōō'shē-ə, -shə) An ancient city of Mesopotamia SSE of Baghdad.

Se•leu•cid (sī-lōō'sīd) A Hellenistic dynasty ruling much of Asia Minor (312–64 B.C.). —*Se•leu'cid adj.*

self (sēlf) *n., pl. selves* (sēlvz). 1. One's total being. 2. Individuality. 3. One's own interests or advantage. 4. *Immunol.* That which the immune system identifies as belonging to the body. —*pron.* Myself, yourself, himself, or herself. See *Usage Note* at *myself*. [*< OE, selfsame.*]

self- *pref.* 1. Oneself: *self-control*. 2. Automatic; automatically: *self-loading*. [*< OE.*]

self-ab•sorbed (sēlf' əb-sōrbd', -zōrbd') *adj.* Excessively self-involved. —*self'•ab•sorp'tion n.*

self-ad•dressed (sēlf' ə-drēst') *adj.* Addressed to oneself.

self-ap•point•ed (sēlf' ə-poin'tīd) *adj.* Designated by oneself.

self-as•ser•tion (sēlf' ə-sūr'shən) *n.* Determined advancement of one's own personality, wishes, or views. —*self'•as•ser'tive adj.* —*self'•as•ser'tive•ness n.*

self-as•sured (sēlf' ə-shōōrd') *adj.* Confident and poised. —*self'•as•sur'ance n.*