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Preface

Acknowledgements

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cervelat /'sɜ:və'lɑ:, -læt/ *n.* a kind of smoked pork sausage. [obs. F f. It. *cervellata*]
cervical /'sɜ:vɪk(ə)l, 'sɜ:vɪk(ə)l/ *adj.* *Anat.* 1 of or relating to the neck (*cervical vertebrae*). 2 of or relating to the cervix. **cervical screening** examination of a large number of apparently healthy women for cervical cancer. **cervical smear** a specimen of cellular material from the neck of the womb for detection of cancer. [F *cervical* or mod.L *cervicālis* f. L *cervix -icis* neck]
cervine /'sɜ:vɪn/ *adj.* of or like a deer. [L *cervinus* f. *cervus* deer]
cervix /'sɜ:vɪks/ *n.* (*pl.* *cervices* /-,sɪz/) *Anat.* 1 the neck. 2 any necklike structure, esp. the neck of the womb. [L]
Cesarean (also **Cesarian**) *US* var. of **CAESAREAN**.
cesarevitch /sɪ'zæ:rɪvɪtʃ/ *n.* (also **cesarewitch** /-wɪtʃ/) 1 *hist.* the eldest son of the emperor of Russia (cf. **TSAREVICH**). 2 (**Cesarewitch**) a horse-race run annually at Newmarket. [Russ. *tsesarevich*]
cesium *US* var. of **CAESIUM**.
cess /ses/ *n.* (also *sess*) *Sc., Ir., & Ind.* etc. a tax, a levy. [properly *sess* for obs. *assess* *n.*: see **ASSESS**]
cess /ses/ *n.* *Dr.* **bad cess to** may evil befall (*bad cess to their clan*). [perh. f. **CESS**]
cessation /se'seɪ(ə)ʃn/ *n.* 1 a ceasing (*cessation of the truce*). 2 a pause (*resumed fighting after the cessation*). [ME f. L *cessatio* f. *cessare* **CEASE**]
cesser /'sesə(r)/ *n.* *Law* a coming to an end; a cessation (of a term, a liability, etc.). [AF & OF, = **CEASE**]
cession /se'ʃ(ə)n/ *n.* 1 (often foll. by *of*) the ceding or giving up (of rights, property, and esp. of territory by a State). 2 the territory etc. so ceded. [ME f. OF *cession* or L *cessio* f. *cedere* *cess-* go away]
cessionary /se'ʃənəri/ *n.* (*pl.* *-ies*) *Law* = **ASSIGN** *n.*
cesspit /'sespɪt/ *n.* 1 a pit for the disposal of refuse. 2 = **CESSPOOL**. [cess in **CESSPOOL** + **PIT**]
cesspool /'sespu:l/ *n.* 1 an underground container for the temporary storage of liquid waste or sewage. 2 a centre of corruption, depravity, etc. [perh. alt., after *POOL*, f. earlier *cesperalle*, f. *suspiral* vent, water-pipe, f. OF *souspirail* air-hole f. L *suspirare* breathe up, sigh (as *sub-*, *spirare* breathe)]
cestode /'sestəʊd/ *n.* (also *cestoid* /'sestɔɪd/) any flatworm of the class *Cestoda*, including tapeworms. [L *cestus* f. Gk *kēstos* girdle]
CET *abbr.* Central European Time.
cetacean /sɪ'teɪ(ə)n/ *n.* & *adj.* *-n.* any marine mammal of the order *Cetacea* with streamlined hairless body and dorsal blowhole for breathing, including whales, dolphins, and porpoises. *-adj.* of cetaceans. **cetaceous** *adj.* [mod.L *Cetacea* f. L *cetus* f. Gk *kētos* whale]
cetane /'sɪteɪn/ *n.* *Chem.* a colourless liquid hydrocarbon of the alkane series used in standardizing ratings of diesel fuel. **cetane number** a measure of the ignition properties of diesel fuel. [f. **SPERMACE**TI after *methane* etc.]
ceteris paribus /sɪ'terɪs 'pærɪ,bʊs/ *adv.* other things being equal. [L]
Ceylon moss /sɪ'lɒn/ *n.* a red seaweed, *Gracilaria lichenoides*, from E. India. [Ceylon, now Sri Lanka]
CF *abbr.* *Brit.* Chaplain to the Forces.
Cf *symp.* *Chem.* the element californium.
cf. *abbr.* compare. [L *confer* imper. of *conferre* compare]
c.f. *abbr.* carried forward.
CFC *abbr.* *Chem.* chloro-fluorocarbon, any of various usu. gaseous compounds of carbon, hydrogen, chlorine, and fluorine, used in refrigerants, aerosol propellants, etc., and thought to be harmful to the ozone layer in the earth's atmosphere.
CFE *abbr.* College of Further Education.
cg *abbr.* centigram(s).
CGS *abbr.* Chief of General Staff.
cgs *abbr.* centimetre-gram-second.
CH *abbr.* (in the UK) Companion of Honour.

b but d dog f few g get h he j yes k cat l leg m man n no p pen r red s sit t top v voice

ch. *abbr.* 1 church. 2 chapter. 3 chestnut.
cha var. of **CHAR**.
Chablis /'ʃæblɪ/ *n.* (*pl.* same /-lɪz/) a dry white burgundy wine. [Chablis in E. France]
cha-cha /'tʃɑ:tʃɑ:/ (also **cha-cha-cha** /tʃɑ:tʃɑ:tʃɑ:/) *n.* & *v.* *-n.* 1 a ballroom dance with a Latin-American rhythm. 2 music for or in the rhythm of a cha-cha-cha. *-v.intr.* (**cha-chas**, **cha-chaed** /-tʃɑ:d/ or **cha-cha'd** /-tʃɑ:ɪŋ/) dance the cha-cha. [Amer. Sp.]
chacónne /ʃə'kɒn/ *n.* *Mus.* 1 a musical form consisting of variations on a ground bass. 2 a musical composition in this style. 2 *hist.* a dance performed to this music. [F f. Sp. *chacóna*]
chador /'tʃɑdə(r)/ *n.* (also **chadar**, **chuddar**) a large piece of cloth worn in some countries by Muslim women, wrapped around the body to leave only the face exposed. [Pers. *chador*, Hindi *chador*]
chaetognath /'kɪtəɡnəθ/ *n.* any dart-shaped worm of the phylum *Chaetognatha*, usu. living among marine plankton, and having a head with external thorny teeth. [mod.L *Chaetognatha* f. Gk *khaitē* long hair + *gnathos* jaw]
chafe /tʃeɪf/ *v.* & *n.* *-v.* 1 *tr.* & *intr.* make or become sore or damaged by rubbing. 2 *tr.* rub (esp. the skin to restore warmth or sensation). 3 *tr.* & *intr.* make or become annoyed; fret (*was chafed by the delay*). *-n.* 1 a an act of chafing. 2 a sore resulting from this. 2 a state of annoyance. [ME f. OF *chauer* ult. L *calescere* f. *calēre* be hot + *facere* make]
chafer /'tʃeɪfə(r)/ *n.* any of various large slow-moving beetles of the family *Scarabaeidae*, esp. the cock chafer. [OE *caefor*, *cefer* f. Gmc]
chaff /tʃɑ:f/ *n.* & *v.* *-n.* 1 the husks of corn or other seed separated by winnowing or threshing. 2 chopped hay and straw used as fodder. 3 light-hearted joking banter. 4 worthless things; rubbish. 5 strips of metal foil released in the atmosphere to obstruct radar detection. *-v.* 1 *tr.* & *intr.* tease; banter. 2 *tr.* chop (straw etc.). **chaff-cutter** a machine for chopping fodder. **separate the wheat from the chaff** distinguish good from bad. **chaffy** *adj.* [OE *caef*, *caef* prob. f. Gmc: sense 3 of *n.* & 1 of *v.* perh. f. **CHAFF**]
chaffer /'tʃæfə(r)/ *v.* & *n.* *-v.intr.* haggle; bargain. *-n.* bargaining; haggling. **chafferer** *n.* [ME f. OE *caefaru* f. *caep* bargain + *faru* journey]
chaffinch /'tʃæfɪntʃ/ *n.* *Brit.* a common European finch, *Fringilla coelebs*, the male of which has a blue-grey head with pinkish cheeks. [OE *caefinc*: see **CHAFF**, **FINCH**]
chafing-dish /'tʃeɪfɪŋ/ *n.* 1 a cooking pot with an outer pan of hot water, used for keeping food warm. 2 a dish with a spirit-lamp etc. for cooking at table. [obs. sense of **CHAFF** = warm]
Chagas' disease /'tʃɑ:gəs/ (also **Chagas's disease**) *n.* a kind of sleeping sickness caused by a protozoan transmitted by blood-sucking bugs. [C. Chagas, Braz. physician d. 1934]
chagrin /'ʃægrɪn, ʃə'grɪn/ *n.* & *v.* *-n.* acute vexation or mortification. *-v.tr.* affect with chagrin. [F *chagrin(er)*, of uncert. orig.]
chain /tʃeɪn/ *n.* & *v.* *-n.* 1 a a connected flexible series of esp. metal links as decoration or for a practical purpose. 2 something resembling this (*formed a human chain*). 2 (in *pl.*) a fetters used to confine prisoners. 3 a restraining force. 4 a sequence, series, or set (*chain of events*; *mountain chain*). 5 a badge of office in the form of a chain worn round the neck (*mayoral chain*). 6 a a jointed measuring-line consisting of linked metal rods. 7 its length (66 ft.). 7 *Chem.* a group of (esp. carbon) atoms bonded in sequence in a molecule. 8 a figure in a quadrille or similar dance. 9 (in *pl.*) *Naut.* channels (see **CHANNEL**). 10 (also **chain-shot**) *hist.* two cannon-balls or half balls joined by a chain and used in sea battles for bringing down a mast etc. *-v.tr.* 1 (often foll. by *up*) secure or confine with a chain. 2 confine or restrict (a person) (*is chained to the office*).

chain-armour armour made of interlaced chain
chain bridge a suspension bridge on chain
drive a system of transmission by endless
chain-gang a team of convicts chained together
forced to work in the open air. **chain-gear**
transmitting motion by means of an endless
chain-letter one of a sequence of letters the
number of which is requested to send copies to a
number of other people. **chain-link** made of
a diamond-shaped mesh (*chain-link*)
chain-mail = **chain-armour**. **chain reaction**
Physics a self-sustaining nuclear reaction,
in which a neutron from a fission reaction
causes a series of these reactions. 2 *Chem.* a self-sustaining
molecular reaction in which intermediate
products initiate further reactions. 3 a series of
events each caused by the previous one. **chain**
motor-driven saw with teeth on an endless
chain-smoker a person who smokes continuously,
esp. one who lights a cigarette etc. from the
last one smoked. **chain-stitch** an ornamental
embroidery or crochet stitch resembling
chain store one of a series of shops owned
by one firm and selling the same sort of goods. **chain**
= CHANNEL. 2. **chain-wheel** a wheel transmitting
power by a chain fitted to its edges. [ME *cha(e)ine* f. L *catena*]
chair /tʃeə(r)/ *n.* & *v.* *-n.* 1 a separate seat for
one person, of various forms, usu. having a
four legs. 2 a a professorship (*offered the chair*).
3 a seat of authority, esp. on a board of
directors. 4 a mayoralty. 5 a chairperson
seat or office of a chairperson (*will you
 chair?*; *I'm in the chair*). 6 *US* = **electric chair**
iron or steel socket holding a railway rail in
position. *hist.* = **sedan chair**. *-v.tr.* 1 act as chairperson
at a meeting. 2 *Brit.* carry (a person) in
a chair or in a sitting position, in transport.
3 install in a chair, esp. as a position of authority.
4 chair-bed a chair that unfolds into a bed.
5 chair-borne colloq. (of an administrator) *n.*
chair-car a railway carriage with chairs instead
of long seats; a parlour car. **chair-lift** a series
of cables on an endless cable for carrying passengers
down a mountain etc. **take a chair** sit down.
AF *chaere*, OF *chaiere* f. L *cathedra* f. Gk
καθῆδρα see **CATHEDRAL**]
chairlady /tʃeə'leɪdi/ *n.* (*pl.* *-ies*) = **CHAIRWOMAN**
chairman /'tʃeəmən/ *n.* (*pl.* *-men*) 1 a person who
presides over a meeting. 2 the permanent
member of a committee, a board of directors, a firm,
the master of ceremonies at an entertainment etc.
3 *hist.* either of two sedan-bearers. **chairman**
and *n.*
chairperson /'tʃeə,pɜ:s(ə)n/ *n.* a chairman or
chairwoman (used as a neutral alternative).
chaise /tʃeɪz/ *n.* 1 esp. *hist.* a horse-drawn carriage
for one or two persons, esp. one with an open
top and two wheels. 2 = **post-chaise** (see **POST-CHAISE**)
of chaire, formed as **CHAIR**]
chaise longue /ʃeɪz 'lɒŋɡ/ *n.* a sofa with only
one end raised. [F, lit. long chair]
chalaza /kə'læzə/ *n.* (*pl.* **chalazae** /-zi:/) each of
two twisted membranous strips joining the yolk
cells at one end of an egg. [mod.L f. Gk, = hailstone]
chalcedony /kæl'sedəni/ *n.* a type of quartz
occurring in several different forms, e.g. *tiger's
 eye*, etc. **chalcedonic** /kæl'sɪdɒnɪk/ *adj.*
[ME f. L c(h)alcedonius f. Gk khalkēdōn]
chalcolithic /kælkə'lɪθɪk/ *adj.* *Archaeol.* of the
historic period in which both stone and metal
implements were used. [Gk *khalkos* copper + *lithos*
stone]
chalcopyrite /kæl'kɒpəraɪt/ *n.* a yellow
copper-iron sulphide, which is the principal
source of copper. [Gk *khalkos* copper + **PYRITE**]
Chaldean /kæl'di:ən/ *n.* & *adj.* *-n.* 1 a a

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