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THIRD EDITION

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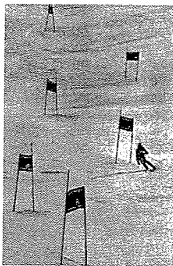
CIP

Manufactured in the United States of America

**countrified**  
**course**



Gustave Courbet

course  
Slalom ski course

**coun·tri·fied** also **coun·try·fied** (kūn'trī-fīd') *adj.* 1. Resembling or having the characteristics of country life; rural. 2. Lacking sophistication.

**coun·try** (kūn'trē) *n., pl. -tries.* 1. a. A nation or state. b. The territory of a nation or state; land. c. The people of a nation or state; populace. 2. The land of a person's birth or citizenship. 3. A region, territory, or large tract of land distinguishable by features of topography, biology, or culture. 4. A district outside of cities and towns; a rural area. 5. *Informal.* Country music. — *adj.* 1. Of, relating to, or typical of the country. 2. Of or relating to country music. [ME *countre* < OFr. *contree* < VLat. *(terra) contrāta*, (land) opposite, before < Lat. *contrā*, opposite. See *kom\**.]

**country and western** *n.* See **country music**.

**country club** *n.* A suburban club for social and sports activities, usu. featuring a golf course.

**country cousin** *n.* One whose ingenuousness or rustic ways may bemuse or entertain city dwellers.

**coun·try·dance** (kūn'trē-dāns') *n.* A folk dance of English origin in which two lines of dancers face each other.

**country gentleman** *n.* A man who owns a country estate.

**coun·try·man** (kūn'trē-mān) *n.* 1. A person from one's own country; a compatriot. 2. A native or an inhabitant of a particular country. 3. A man who lives in the country.

**country mile** *n.* *Informal.* A very great distance.

**country music** *n.* *Mus.* Popular music based on the folk style of the southern rural United States or on the music of cowboys in the American West.

**coun·try·seat** (kūn'trē-sēt') *n.* An estate or mansion in the country.

**coun·try·side** (kūn'trē-sīd') *n.* 1. A rural region. 2. The inhabitants of a rural region.

**coun·try·wide** (kūn'trē-wīd') *adv. & adj.* Throughout a whole country; nationwide: *a countrywide search.*

**coun·try·wom·an** (kūn'trē-wūm'ān) *n.* 1. A woman from one's own country; a compatriot. 2. A woman from a particular country. 3. A woman who lives in the country.

**coun·ty** (koun'tē) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. An administrative subdivision of a state in the United States. 2. a. A territorial division exercising administrative, judicial, and political functions in Great Britain and Ireland. b. The territory under the jurisdiction of a count or earl. 3. The people living in a county. [ME *counte*, territorial division < OFr. *conte*, the territory of a count < Med.Lat. *comitātus* < LLat., the office of count < Lat., retinue < *comes*, *comit-*, companion. See *el\**.] — *coun'ty* *adj.*

**county agent** *n.* A government employee who serves as a consultant and adviser in a chiefly rural county on such matters as agriculture, education, and home economics.

**county fair** *n.* A fair usu. held every year in a county.

**county palatine** *n., pl. counties palatine.* The domain of a count palatine in England or Ireland.

**county seat** *n.* A town or city that is the administrative center of its county.

**county town** *n.* *Chiefly British.* A county seat.

**coun·ty·wide** (koun'tē-wīd') *adv. & adj.* Throughout a whole county: *found at locations countywide.*

**coup** (kōō) *n., pl. coups* (kōōz). 1. A brilliantly executed stratagem; a masterstroke. 2. A coup d'état. [Fr., stroke < OFr. *colp* < LLat. *colpus*. See *coe\**.]

**coup de grâce** (kōō' də grās') *n., pl. coups de grâce.* 1. A deathblow delivered to end the misery of a mortally wounded victim. 2. A finishing stroke or decisive event. [Fr.: *coup*, stroke + *de*, of + *grâce*, mercy.]

**coup de main** (də mās') *n., pl. coups de main.* A sudden action undertaken to surprise an enemy. [Fr.: *coup*, stroke, blow + *de*, of + *main*, hand.]

**coup d'état** (də-tā') *n., pl. coups d'état* or *coup d'états* (də-tā'). The sudden overthrow of a government by a usu. small group of persons in or previously in positions of authority. [Fr.: *coup*, blow, stroke + *de*, of + *état*, state.]

**coup de thé·âtre** (də-tā-'trā) *n., pl. coups de théâtre.* 1. A sudden, dramatic turn of events in a play. 2. An unexpected and sensational event, esp. one that reverses or negates a situation. [Fr.: *coup*, stroke + *de*, of + *théâtre*, theater.]

**coup d'oeil** (də-'yā) *n., pl. coups d'oeil.* A quick survey; a glance. [Fr.: *coup*, stroke + *de*, of + *oeil*, eye.]

**coupe**<sup>1</sup> (kōōp) *n.* 1. a. A dessert of ice cream or fruit-flavored ice, garnished and served in a special dessert glass. b. The stemmed glass in which a coupe is served. 2. A shallow bowl-shaped dessert dish. [Fr., cup < LLat. *cuppa*.]

**coupe**<sup>2</sup> (kōōp) *n.* Var. of *coupé* 2.

**cou·pé** (kōō-pā') *n.* 1. A closed four-wheel carriage with two seats inside and one outside. 2. Also *coupe* (kōōp). A closed two-door automobile. [Fr. < p.part. of *couper*, to cut < *coup*, blow. See *cou\**.]

**Cou·pe·rin** (kōō-po-rān', kōōp-rān'), François. 1668–1733. French composer who was court organist to Louis XIV.

**cou·ple** (kūp'l) *n.* 1. Two items of the same kind; a pair. 2. Something that joins or connects two things together; a link. 3. (*used with a sing. or pl. v.*) a. Two people united, as by marriage. b. Two people together. 4. *Informal.* A few;

several: *a couple of days.* 5. *Phys.* A pair of forces of equal magnitude acting in parallel but opposite directions. — *v.* *tr.* 1. To link together; connect. 2. a. To join as spouses; marry. b. To join in sexual union. 3. *Elect.* To link (two circuits or currents) as by magnetic induction. — *intr.* 1. To form pairs; join. 2. To unite sexually; copulate. 3. To join chemically. — *adj. Informal.* Two or few. [ME < OFr. < Lat. *cōpula*, bond, pair.]

**Usage Note:** When used to refer to two people who function socially as a unit, as in a *married couple*, the word *couple* may take either a singular or a plural verb, depending on whether the members are considered individually or collectively: *The couple were married last week. Only one couple was unaccounted for.* When a pronoun follows, they and their are more common than it and its: *The couple decided to spend their (less commonly its) vacation in Italy.* • Critics have sometimes maintained that a *couple* of is too inexact to be appropriate in formal writing. But the inexactitude of a *couple* of may usefully suggest that the writer is indifferent to the precise number of items involved. The usage should be considered unobjectionable on all levels of style.

**cou·pler** (kūp'lər) *n.* 1. One that couples, esp. a device for coupling two railroad cars. 2. *Mus.* A device connecting two organ keyboards so that they may be played together.

**cou·plet** (kūp'līt) *n.* 1. A unit of verse consisting of two successive lines, usu. rhyming and having the same meter. 2. Two similar things; a pair. [Fr. < OFr., dim. of *couple*, couple. See *COUPLE*.]

**cou·pling** (kūp'ling) *n.* 1. The act of forming couples. 2. The act of uniting sexually. 3. A device that links or connects. 4. *Electron.* Transfer of energy from one circuit to another. 5. The body part of a four-footed animal that connects the hindquarters to the forequarters.

**cou·pon** (kōō'pōn', kyōō'pōn') *n.* 1. A negotiable certificate attached to a bond that represents a sum of interest due. 2. a. One of a set of detachable certificates that may be torn off and redeemed as needed. b. A detachable part, as of an advertisement, that entitles the bearer to certain benefits, such as a refund. c. A certificate accompanying a product that may be redeemed for a cash discount. d. A printed form to be used as an order blank or for requesting information or obtaining a discount. 3. A detachable slip calling for periodic payments as for merchandise bought on an installment plan. [Fr. < OFr. *colpon*, piece cut off < *colper*, to cut < *colp*, blow. See *cou*.]

**cou·rage** (kūr'ij, kūr'ē) *n.* The state or quality of mind or spirit that enables one to face danger, fear, or vicissitudes with self-possession and resolution; bravery. [ME *corage* < OFr. VLat. *\*coraticum* < Lat. *cor*, heart. See *kerd\**.]

**cou·ra·geous** (ka-rā'jōs) *adj.* Having or characterized by courage; valiant. See *Syns at brave*. — **cou·ra·geous·ly** *adv.* — **cou·ra·geous·ness** *n.*

**cou·rante** (kōō-rānt') *n.* 1. A 17th-century French dance characterized by running and gliding steps to an accompaniment in triple time. 2. *Mus.* The second movement of the classical baroque suite. [Fr. < fem. p.part. of *courir*, to run < OFr. *courre* < Lat. *currere*. See *kers\**.]

**Cou·ran·tyne** also **Co·ran·tjin** (kōr'an-tīn', kār'tē). A river rising in SE Guyana and flowing c. 724 km (450 mi) to the Atlantic Ocean.

**Cou·ret** (kōōr-bā', bē'). Gustave. 1819–77. French painter known for his realistic depiction of everyday scenes.

**cou·rette** (kōōr-zhēt') *n.* *Chiefly British.* A zucchini. [Fr. dial., dim. of *course*, gourd < OFr. *cohourde* < Lat. *cauribita*.]

**cou·ri·er** (kōōr'ē-ər, kūr'ē-, kūr'ē-) *n.* 1. a. A messenger, esp. one on official diplomatic business. b. A spy carrying secret information. 2. a. A personal attendant hired to make arrangements for a journey. b. An employee of a travel agency serving as a guide for tourists. [Fr. *courrier* < OFr. < Old Fr. *corriere* < *correre*, to run < Lat. *currere*. See *kers\**.]

**cou·ran** (kōōr'lan) *n.* See *limpkin*. [Fr., perh. alteration of *coulirri* < Galibi *kurliri*.]

**Cou·land** also **Kur·land** (kōōr'land). A historical region of Latvia between the Baltic Sea and the Western Dvina R.

**course** (kōrs, kōrs) *n.* 1. Onward movement in a particular direction; progress. 2. The direction of continuing movement. 3. The route or path taken by something, such as a stream that moves. See *Syns at way*. 4. Movement in time; duration. 5. *Sports.* A designated area of land or water on which a race is held or a sport played. 6. A mode of action or behavior. 7. A typical or natural manner of proceeding or developing. 8. A systematic or orderly succession of events. 9. A continuous layer of building material, such as brick on a wall or roof of a building. 10. a. A complete body of prescribed studies constituting a curriculum. b. A unit of such a curriculum. 11. A part of a meal served as a unit at one time. 12. *Naut.* The lowest sail on a vessel of a square-rigged ship. 13. A point on the compass, esp. the one toward which a ship is sailing. — *v.* **course**, **course**, **course**, **course**. — *tr.* 1. To move swiftly through or over; traverse. 2. a. To hunt (game) with hounds. b. To set (hounds) to chase game. — *intr.* 1. To proceed or move swiftly along a specified course.