

Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary of the English Language

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country cousin, a person from the country, to whom the sights and activities of a large city are novel and bewildering.

country-dance (kun/tré dans/, -dāns/), *n.* a dance of rural English origin in which the dancers form circles or squares or in which they face each other in two rows.

country-fied (kun/tri fid/), *adj.* countrified. —**coun-**try-fied/ness, *n.*

country-folk (kun/tré fōk/), *n.* 1. people living or raised in the country; rustics. 2. people from the same country; compatriots. Also called **countrypeople**. [COUNTRY + FOLK]

country gentleman, a wealthy man living in his country home or estate.

country house, a house, usually large and impressive, on an estate in the country.

countryman (kun/tré mən/), *n.* *pl.* -men. 1. a native or inhabitant of one's own country. 2. a person who lives in the country. [ME *contre man*. See COUNTRY, MAN.] —**Syn.** 1. compatriot, fellow citizen. 3. rustic, farmer, peasant. —**Ant.** 1. foreigner.

country mile, a long distance: *He can hit a base-ball a country mile.*

country music, country-and-western.

country-people (kun/tré pē/pəl/), *n.* countryfolk. [COUNTRY + PEOPLE]

country rock, *Geol.* the rock surrounding and penetrated by mineral veins or igneous intrusions.

country-seat (kun/tré sēt/), *n.* *Brit.* a country mansion or estate, esp. one belonging to a distinguished family and large enough to accommodate house parties, hunt meetings, etc. [COUNTRY + SEAT]

country-side (kun/tré sid/), *n.* 1. a particular section of a country, esp. a rural section. 2. its inhabitants. [COUNTRY + SIDE]

country store, a general store, esp. one that caters to the tourists in a resort area.

country wal/lah, *Naut. Slang.* a sailing ship having largely the appearance and rig of a European vessel but built in India by natives and manned by native crews.

country-wide (kun/tré wid/), *adj.* extending across the whole country: *a country-wide reaction.* Also, **coun-**try-wide/. [COUNTRY + WIDE]

country-woman (kun/tré wōmən/), *n.* *pl.* -women. 1. a woman who is a native or inhabitant of one's own country. 2. a woman who lives in the country. [late ME; see COUNTRY, WOMAN]

count-ship (kount/ship/), *n.* 1. the rank or position of a count. 2. territory or jurisdiction of a count. [COUNTE + SHIP]

count-ty (koun/ti/), *n.* *pl.* -ties. 1. U.S. an administrative division of a State. 2. one of the chief administrative divisions of a country or state, as in Great Britain and Ireland. 3. one of the larger divisions for purposes of local administration, as in Canada and New Zealand. 4. the inhabitants of a county. 5. *Obs.* the domain of a count or earl. [ME *counte* < AF (MF) *comte* < L *comitatus* retinue, in LL: office of a count, whence jurisdiction, territory, equiv. to *comitatus* (ptp. s. of *comitari* to go with, deriv. of *comes* companion) + *-us* n. suffix (4th decl.)]

count-ty (koun/ti/), *n.* *Obs.* count². [COUNTRY + TY, by confusion with count¹]

count-ty agent, U.S. a governmental official employed chiefly to advise farmers on farming and marketing techniques and to promote educational programs fitted to the needs of rural people. Also called **ag-**ricultural agent.

count-ty board, U.S. the governing body of a county consisting usually of three or more elected members.

count-ty clerk, U.S. an elective county official in most States who generally keeps records of property titles, distributes ballots, issues licenses, etc.

count-ty college, (in England) a part-time continuation school with compulsory attendance for boys and girls from 15 to 18 years of age, created under the Education Act (1944).

count-ty commissioner, U.S. one of the members of a county board who administers the collection and disbursement of funds and other affairs of the county.

count-ty court, 1. U.S. a. an administrative board in counties in some States. b. a judicial tribunal in some States with jurisdiction extending over one or more counties. 2. (in England) a. the lowest civil tribunal having limited jurisdiction, mostly for the recovery of small debts. b. (formerly) the assembly of local residents who met periodically in each county under the presidency of the sheriff to transact the judicial and administrative business of the county.

count-ty fair, a competitive exhibition of farm products, livestock, etc., often held annually in the same place in the county.

count-ty farm, a farm maintained for the poor by a county.

count-ty house, a county poorhouse. Also called **count-ty house**.

count-ty palatine, *pl.* counties palatine, the territory under the jurisdiction of a count palatine.

count-ty seat, the seat of government of a county. Also called **count-ty town**.

coupe (koo), *n.* *pl.* coups (kooz; Fr. koo). a highly successful stroke, act, or move; a clever action or accomplishment. [C. Fr. blow, stroke, OF *colp* < LL *colpus* (L *colaphus* < GK *kōlaphos*)]

coupe (koo, koo), *Scot.* —*v.* 1. to turn (something) upside down; upset. —*v.* 2. to fall over; capsize; spill. [ME *coupe* to pay for < Scand; cf. Icel *kaupa* to buy, barter; c. OE *ceapian*, G *kaufen*, etc. See CHEAP]

coupe de grace (koo/də grās/), *pl.* coups de grace (koo/də grās/), *French.* 1. a death blow, esp. one delivered mercifully to end suffering. 2. any finishing or decisive stroke. [Lit. blow of mercy]

coupe de main (koo/də mən/), *pl.* coups de main (koo/də mən/), *French.* a surprise attack; a sudden development. [Lit. blow from the hand]

coupe de mai-tre (koo/də mē/tré/), *pl.* coups de mai-tre (koo/də mē/tré/), *French.* a master stroke.

coupe de plume (koo/də plym/), *pl.* coups de plume (koo/də plym/), *French.* a literary attack; satire. [Lit. stroke of the pen]

coupe de poing (Fr. koo/də pwān/), *pl.* coups de poing (Fr. koo/də pwān/), *Archaic.* a political tool of stone, held in the hand and having an axlike striking edge. [C. Fr. lit. blow from the fist]

coupe d'es-sai (koo/də sē/sā/), *pl.* coups d'es-sai (koo/də sē/sā/), *French.* a first attempt. [Lit., (a) trial stroke]

coupe d'é-tat (koo/də dā tā/; Fr. koo/dā tā/), *pl.* coups d'é-tat (koo/də dā tā/; Fr. koo/dā tā/), a sudden and decisive action in politics, esp. one effecting a change of government illegally or by force. [C. Fr. lit., stroke concerning the state]

coupe de thé-âtre (koo/də tē ā/tré/), *pl.* coups de thé-âtre (koo/də tē ā/tré/), *French.* 1. a surprising or unexpected turn of events in a play. 2. a sensational and unexpected turn in the plot of a drama. 3. any theatrical trick intended to have a sensational effect. [Lit., stroke concerning the theater]

coupe d'oeil (koo/də oē/yē/), *pl.* coups d'oeil (koo/də oē/yē/), *French.* a quick glance. [Lit., stroke of the eye]

coupe (koo), *n.* 1. Also, **coupe**, a closed, two-door automobile with a body shorter than that of a sedan of the same model. 2. **coupe** (def. 1-3). [See COUP]

coupe (koo), *n.* 1. ice cream or ice mixed or topped with fruit, liqueur, whipped cream, etc. 2. a glass container for serving such a dessert, usually having a stem and a wide, deep bowl. 3. any rimless plate. [ME < OF coupe < LL *cupp(a)* cup]

coupe (koo pā/ or, for 1, 5, koo), *n.* 1. a short, four-wheeled, closed carriage, usually with a single seat for two passengers and with an outside seat for the driver. 2. the end compartment in a European diligence or railroad car. 3. *Engl.* an intermediary step to transfer the weight from one foot of the rafters connected by a tie beam or collar beam. 4. a leash for holding two hounds together. 5. *Fox Hunting.* two hounds: 25 hounds or 12½ couple. 6. a couple of, *Informal.* more than two, but not many, of; a small number of: *It will take a couple of days to get there.* 7. to fasten, link, or associate together in a pair or pairs. 8. to join; connect. 9. to unite in marriage or in sexual union. 10. *Radio.* to join or associate by means of a coupler. —*v.* 11. to join in a pair; unite. 12. to copulate. [ME < MF < *cupula* i. tie, bond. See COUPLE]

coupe (koo), *n.* 1. *See* pair.

coupe-close (kup/əl klōs/), *n.* 1. *Heraldry.* a narrow chevron, one quarter the usual breadth. 2. couple (def. 5).

coupled roof, a double-pitched roof having a narrow span and often depending upon the mass of the walls rather than upon the beams or collar beams to resist its outward thrust.

couple-ment (kup/əl mēnt/), *n.* *Obs.* the act or result of coupling; union. [C. MF; see COUPLE, MENT]

coupler (kup/lər/), *n.* 1. one who or that which couples or links together. 2. a device in an organ or harpsichord for connecting keys, manuals, or a manual and pedals so that they are played together when one is played. 3. *Radio.* a device for transferring electrical energy from one circuit to another, as a transformer which joins the parts of a radio or paratus together by induction. 4. *Mach.* a rod or link of transmitting force and motion between a rotating part and a rotating or oscillating part. 5. (in color photography) a chemical that reacts with the developer to produce one of the colors in a print or transparency. 6. Also called **coupling**. *Railroads.* a device for joining pieces of rolling stock. [COUPLE + -ER]

couplet (kup/it/), *n.* 1. a pair of successive lines of verse, esp. a pair that rhyme and are of the same length. 2. a pair; couple. 3. *Music.* any of the contrasting sections of a rondo occurring between statements of the refrain. [C. MF; see COUPLE, -ER]

coupling (kup/ing/), *n.* 1. the act of one who or that which couples. 2. *Mach.* a. a device for joining two rotating shafts semipermanently at their ends so as to transmit torque from one to the other. Cf. *clutch* (def. 12a). b. a part with an inside thread for connecting two pipes of the same diameter. c. a fitting at the end of a length of hose into which the end of another such length can be screwed or fitted. 3. *Railroads.* coupler (def. 6). 4. *Elect.* a. the association of two circuits or systems in such a way that power may be transferred from one to the other. b. a device or expedient to insure this. 5. a short length of plumbing pipe having each end threaded on the inside. 6. the part of the body between the tops of the shoulder blades and the tops of the hip joints in a dog, horse, etc. [ME; see COUPLE, -ING]

coupon (koo/pən/), *n.* 1. a portion of a certificate, ticket, label, advertisement, or the like set off from the main body by dotted lines or the like to emphasize its separability, entitling the holder to something, as a gift or discount, or for use as an order blank, ticket, etc. for the same purpose. 2. a separate certificate, ticket, etc. for the same purpose. 3. one of a number of small certificates calling for periodic interest payments on a bond. Cf. **coupon bond**. 4. *Metall.* a sample of metal or metalwork submitted to a customer or testing agency for approval. 5. *Brit. Slang.* a party leader's official endorsement of a parliamentary candidate. [C. F. OF *coupon* piece cut off, equiv. to *colp(er)* (to) cut (see COPE) + *-on* n. suffix] —**cou-**pon-less, *adj.*

coupon bond, a bond which pays interest by means of coupons with specific cash values.

cou-pon clip-per, a well-to-do person whose main work consists of clipping and cashing coupons from coupon bonds.

courage (kūr/ī, kur/), *n.* 1. the quality of mind or spirit that enables one to face difficulty, danger, pain, etc., with firmness and without fear. 2. *Brave.* 2. *Obs.* the heart as the source of emotion. 3. *have the courage of one's convictions*, to act in accordance with one's beliefs, esp. in spite of criticism. [ME *corage* < OF, equiv. to *cuer* heart (< L *cor*) + *-age* -AGE]

Syn. 1. fearlessness, dauntlessness, intrepidity, fortitude, pluck, spirit, heroism, daring, audacity, hardihood, gallantry. **COURAGE.** BRAVERY, VALOR. BRAVADO refer to qualities of spirit and conduct. COURAGE permits one to face extreme dangers and difficulties without fear; to take (or lose) courage. BRAVERY implies true courage together with daring and an intrepid boldness; *bravery in a battle*. VALOR implies continuous, active bravery in the face of personal danger and a noble and lofty quality of courage; *valor throughout a campaign*, *valor in fighting for the right*. BRAVADO is now usually a boastful and ostentatious pretense of courage or bravery; *empty bravado*.

Ant. 1. cowardice.

cou-ra-geous (kōr/ā/jəs/), *adj.* possessing or characterized by courage; brave; valiant: *a courageous speech against the dictator.* [ME *corageous* < OF *corageus*, equiv. to *corage* COURAGE + *-eus* -EUS] —**cou-ra-**geously, *adv.* —**cou-ra-**geous-ness, *n.*

Syn. See BRAVE.

cour-ant (kūr/ānt/ for 1; kūr/ānt/ for 2), *adj.* 1. *Heraldry.* (of an animal) represented in the act of running: *a greyhound courant*. —**2.** *courante.* [C. F. lit., running, masc. prp. of *courir* to run]

cour-ante (kūr/ānt/; Fr. kūr/ānt/), *n.* *pl.* -rantes (-rāntes; Fr. -rānt/). 1. an old-fashioned dance dating back to the 17th century and characterized by a running or gliding step. 2. a piece of music for or suited to this dance. 3. *Music.* a movement following the allemande in the classical suite. Also, **courant**, **corrente**. [C. MF; lit., running, fem. prp. of *courir* to run]

Cour-bet (kūr/bē/), *n.* *Gus-tave* (gys tāv/), 1819-77, French painter.

Cour-be-voie (kūr/bə vōi/), *n.* a city in N France, WNW of Paris. 59,941 (1962).

cour-d'honneur (kūr/dōn-er/), *pl.* cours d'honneur (kūr/dōn-er/), *French.* the forecourt of a castle, palace, government building, or the like. [Lit., court of honor]

cour-reur de bois (kūr/rer də bwā/), *pl.* cou-reurs de bois (kūr/rer də bwā/), *French.* a French or French-Indian trapper of North America, esp. of Canada. [Lit., runner, hunter of (the) woods]

cour-ier (kūr/ī-er, kūr/ī-er/), *n.* 1. a messenger, usually traveling in haste, bearing urgent news, important reports, etc. 2. any means of carrying news, messages, etc., regularly. 3. the conveyance used by a courier, as an airplane, ship, etc. 4. *Chiefly Brit.* a person hired by travelers to take charge of the arrangements of a journey. [C. MF *courier* < It *corriere* (cf. equiv. to *correre* (to) run (< L *currere*) + *-iere* -ER; r. ME *corour* < OF *corour* < LL *curritor* runner)]

cour-lan (kūr/lən/), *n.* the limpkin. [C. F. *courlan* < Carib; akin to Carib *kuriri* (Galibi dial.)]

Cour-land (kūr/lənd/), *n.* a former duchy on the Baltic; later a province of Russia and, in 1918, incorporated into Latvia. Also, **Kurland**.

Cour-nand (kūr/nānd/), *n.* *Fr.* kūr/nān/), *n.* André Frédéric (ān drā/ frā drā/), 1868-1955, U.S. physiologist, born in France; Nobel prize for medicine 1956.

course (kōrs, kōrs), *n.* *v.* *v.* *coursed*, *cours-ing*. —*n.* 1. advance or progression in a particular direction; onward movement. 2. a direction or route taken or to be taken. 3. the path, route, or channel along which anything moves: *the course of a stream*, *the course of a ball*. 4. the ground, water, etc., on which a race is run, sailed, etc. 5. the continuous passage or progress through time or a succession of stages: *in the course of a year*; *in the course of a battle*. 6. a customary manner of procedure; regularity. 7. a natural order of events: *as a matter of course*; *the course of a disease*. 8. a mode of conduct; behavior. 9. a particular manner of proceeding: *Try another course of action*. 9. a systematized or prescribed series: *a course of lectures*; *a course of medical treatments*. 10. a program of instruction, as in a college or university. 11. a prescribed number of instruction periods or classes in a particular field of study. 12. a part of a meal served at one time: *The main course was steak*. 13. *Navig.* a. the line along the earth's surface upon or over which a vessel, an aircraft, etc., proceeds: described by its bearing with relation to true or magnetic north. b. *Obs.* a point of the compass. 14. *Naut.* the lowermost sail on a fully square-rigged mast: designated by a special name, as foresail or mainsail, or by the designation of the mast itself, as fore course or main course. 15. *Building Trades.* a continuous and usually horizontal range of bricks, stones, clapboards, shingles, etc., as in a wall or roof. 16. one of the pairs of strings on an instrument of the lute family, tuned in unison or in octaves to increase the volume. 17. *Knitting.* the row of stitches going across from side to side (opposed to *wale*). 18. Often, **courses**, the menses. 19. a charge by knights in a tournament. 20. a pursuit of game with dogs by sight rather than by scent. 21. See **golf course**. 22. *Archaic.* a race. 23. in due course, 7. 32. to take part in a hunt with hounds, a tilting match, etc. [ME *co(u)rs* < OF < L *cur(s)us* a running, course, *n.* use of ptp. of *currere* to run]

Syn. 1. 13a. bearing. 3. way, road, track, passage. 6. process, career. 8. method, mode. 16. row, layer.

coursed (kōrst, kōrst), *adj.* *Masonry.* (of stonework) laid in courses of more or less uniform height from end to end; ranged. [COURSE + -ED]

CONCISE ETYMOLOGY KEY: <, descended or derived from; >, whence; b., blend of, blended; c., cognate with; deriv., derivative; equiv., equivalent; imit., imitative; m., modification; obl., oblique; r., replacing; s., stem; sp., spelling; trans., translation; ? origin unknown, perhaps; * hypothetical. See the full key inside the front cover.