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empirical formula to enantiomorph

empirical formula, *n.* a chemical formula showing the elements of a compound and their relative proportions, as (CH₂O)_n or H₂O.

empiricism (em pīr'ə siz'əm), *n.* 1. empirical method or practice. 2. the philosophic doctrine that all knowledge is derived from sense experience. Compare RATIONALISM (def. 2). 3. undue reliance upon experience, as in medicine; quackery. 4. a conclusion that is arrived at empirically. [1650-60] —**empiricist**, *n.*, *adj.*

em-place (em plās'), *v.t.*, *v.i.*, *v.t.*, *v.i.*, **-placed**, **-placing**, to put in place or position. [1860-65; back formation from EMPLACEMENT]

em-place-ment (em plās'mənt), *n.* 1. a space prepared for the positioning of an artillery piece or other heavy weapon. 2. a putting in place or position. [1795-1805; < F, < obs. *emplacer* to place]

em-plane (em plān'), *v.t.*, *v.i.*, *v.t.*, *v.i.*, **-planed**, **-planing**, ENPLANE. [1920-25; EM- + (AIR)PLANE]

em-plot (em plōt'), *v.t.* 1. to engage the services of (a person or persons); hire. 2. to make use of for a specific task; *employed computers to solve the problem*. 3. to devote (time, energies, etc.) to a particular activity. —*n.* 4. employment; service. [1425-75; < MF *emploier* < L *implicāre* to enroll]

employ-able (em plōi'ə bəl), *adj.* 1. able to be employed; usable. 2. qualified to work and available for hire. —*n.* 3. a person who is ready and qualified to work. [1685-95] —**employ-ability**, *n.*

employ-ee or **employ-ee** (em plōi'ē, em plōi'ē, em plōi'ē), *n.* a person who has been hired to work for another. [1825-35; < F *employé* employed, ptp. of *employer* to EMPLOY; see -EE]

employer (em plōi'ər), *n.* a person or business that employs one or more people for wages or salary. [1590-1600]

employment (em plōi'mənt), *n.* 1. an act or instance of employing a person or thing. 2. the state of being employed. 3. work; occupation. 4. an activity that occupies a person's time. [1585-95]

employment agency, *n.* an agency that helps to find jobs for people or assists employers in filling vacant positions. [1885-90, Amer.]

em-poison (em poi'zən), *v.t.* 1. to corrupt. 2. to embitter. 3. *Archaic*. to poison. [1275-1325; ME < OF *empoisoner*. See EM-, POISON] —**em-poison-ment**, *n.*

em-po-ri-um (em pōr'ē əm, -pōr'ē-), *n.*, *pl.* **-poriums**, **-poria** (-pōr'ē ə, -pōr'ē-). 1. a retail store selling a great variety of articles. 2. a chief commercial center. [1580-90; < L < Ck *emporion* market, *emporium* = *empor(os)* merchant, orig. traveler, passenger (n. der. of *en porōi* on a voyage, en route) + *-ion* n. suffix of place]

em-power (em pou'ər), *v.t.* 1. to give official or legal power or authority to. 2. to endow with an ability; enable. [1645-55] —**em-pow-er-ment**, *n.*

em-press (em'pris), *n.* 1. a female ruler of an empire. 2. the consort of an emperor. [1125-75; < OE *empereriz* < L *imperatoricem*, acc. of *imperatorix*, fem. of *imperator*. See EMPEROR, -TRIX] —**Usage**. See -ESS.

em-press-ment (än pres mən'), *n.*, *pl.* **-ments** (-mən'), French. 1. eagerness; willingness. 2. cordiality; geniality.

em-prise or **em-prize** (em prīz'), *n.* 1. an adventurous enterprise. 2. knightly daring or prowess. [1250-1300; ME < AF, OF, n. use of fem. of *empris*, ptp. of *emprendre* to undertake]

emp-ty (emp'tē), *adj.*, **-tiver**, **-tiest**, *v.*, **-tied**, **-tying**, *n.*, *pl.* **-ties**. —*adj.* 1. containing nothing; devoid of contents. 2. vacant; unoccupied. 3. devoid of human activity. 4. hollow; meaningless. 5. unemployed; idle; *empty days*. 6. *Math.* (of a set) containing no elements; null; void. 7. hungry. 8. frivolous; foolish. —*v.t.* 9. to make empty. 10. to discharge (contents). —*v.i.* 11. to become empty. 12. to debauch: *The river empties into the sea*. —*n.* 13. an empty container. —**Idiom**. 14. *running on empty*, having lost vitality, significance, or creative abilities. [bef. 900; ME; OE *æmettig* vacant] —**emp-ti-a-ble**, *adj.* —**emp-ti-er**, *n.* —**emp-ti-ly**, *adv.* —**emp-ti-ness**, *n.*

emp-ty cal'orie, *n.* a calorie whose food source has little or no nutritional value. [1965-70, Amer.]

emp-ty-hand/ed, *adj.* 1. having nothing in the hands. 2. having achieved nothing. 3. bringing no gift, donation, etc. [1605-15]

emp-ty-head/ed, *adj.* foolish; brainless. [1640-50]

emp-ty nest'er, *n.* a person whose children have grown up and no longer live at home. [1960-65; *empty nest* + -ER']

emp-ty nest/ syn'drome, *n.* a depressed state felt by some parents after their children have grown up and left home. [1970-75]

em-pur-ple (em pūr'pəl), *v.*, **-pled**, **-pling**. —*v.t.* 1. to color or tinge purple. —*v.i.* 2. to become purple or deeply flushed. [1580-90]

em-py-e-ma (em'pē ē'mə, -pī-), *n.* a collection of pus in a body cavity, esp. the pleural cavity. [1605-15; < LL < Gk *empyēma*, *empyēs*, var. of *empyēin* to suppurate] —**em-py-e-mic**, *adj.*

em-py-re-al (em'pā rē'al, -pī-, em pīr'ē əl, -pī'rē-) also **empyrean**, *adj.* 1. pertaining to the highest heaven in the cosmology of the ancients. 2. pertaining to the sky; celestial. 3. exalted; sublime. [1475-85; < LL *empyre(us)*, var. of *empyritus* of fire, belonging to the empyrean (< LGk *empyrios* < em- EM- + -pyrios, der. of *pyr* fire)]

em-py-re-an (em'pā rē'an, -pī-, em pīr'ē ən, -pī'rē-), *n.* 1. the highest heaven, supposed by the ancients to contain the pure element of fire. 2. the visible heavens; the firmament. —*adj.* 3. EMPYREAL. [1605-15]

em' quad/, *n.* *Print*. a square unit of area or type, that is approximately one em on each side. [1870-75]

EMS, emergency medical service.

EMT, emergency medical technician: a person who is trained to give emergency medical care at the scene of an accident or in an ambulance.

(*Dromiceius novaehollandiae*, of Australia, resembling the ostrich, [1605-15; ult. < Pg *ema* cassowary])

EMU, 1. Also, **emu**. electromagnetic unit. 2. European Monetary Union.

em-u-late (v. em'yə lāt'; *adj.* -lit), *v.*, **-lat-ed**, **-lat-ing**, *adj.* —*v.t.* 1. to imitate in an effort to equal or surpass. 2. to rival with some degree of success. 3. a. to imitate the functions of (another computer system) by means of software. b. to replace (software) with hardware to perform the same task. —*adj.* 4. *Obs.* emulous. [1580-90; < L *aemulātus*, ptp. of *aemulārī* to rival. See EMULOUS, -ATE] —**em'u-la-tive**, *adj.* —**em'u-la-tive-ly**, *adv.* —**em'u-la-tor**, *n.*

em-u-la-tion (em'yə lā'shən), *n.* 1. effort or desire to equal or excel others. 2. *Obs.* jealous rivalry. [1545-55; < L]

em-u-lous (em'yə ləs), *adj.* 1. filled with emulation; desirous of equalling or excelling. 2. prompted by emulation, as actions or attitudes. 3. *Obs.* jealous; envious. [1350-1400; ME < L *aemulus* vying with; see -ULOUS] —**em-u-lous-ly**, *adv.* —**em'u-lous-ness**, *n.*

em-ul-si-fy (i mul'sə fī'), *v.t.*, *v.i.*, **-fied**, **-fy-ing**, to make into or form an emulsion. [1855-60] —**em-ul-si-fi-a-ble**, **em-ul-si-fi-ble**, *adj.* —**em-ul-si-fi-a-bil'i-ty**, **em-ul-si-bil'i-ty**, *n.* —**em-ul-si-fi-ca-tion**, *n.* —**em-ul-si-fi-er**, *n.*

em-ul-sion (i mul'shən), *n.* 1. any colloidal suspension of a liquid in another liquid. 2. any liquid mixture containing medicine suspended in minute globules. 3. a photosensitive layer of silver halide suspended in gelatin, thinly applied to one surface of a photographic film. [1605-15; < L *emuls(us)*, ptp. of *emulgēre* to draw off (milk) (ē- + *mulgēre* to milk) + *-ion*] —**em-ul-sive**, *adj.*

em-ul-oid (i mul'soid), *n.* a sol having a liquid disperse phase. [1905-10] —**em-ul-soi-dal** (i mul'soid'l, ē'mul-), *adj.*

en (en), *n.* 1. the letter *N*, *n.* 2. a space that is half the width of an em.

en-, a prefix forming verbs that have the general sense "to cause (a person or thing) to be in" the place, condition, or state named by the stem; more specifically, "to confine in or place on" (*entomb*); "to cause to be in" (*enrich*; *enslave*; *entrust*); "to restrict," typically with the additional sense "on all sides, completely" (*encircle*; *enclose*; *entwine*). This prefix is also attached to verbs in order to make them transitive, or to give them a transitive marker if they are already transitive (*enkindle*; *enliven*; *enshield*). Also, before labial consonants, **em-**. Compare **BE-**, **IN-**. [ME < OF < L *in-* IN-]

en-, a prefix meaning "within, in," occurring in loanwords from Greek: *energy*; *enthusiasm*. Also, before labial consonants, **em-**. [(< L) < Gk; c. IN-, IN-]

-en-, a suffix formerly used to form transitive and intransitive verbs from adjectives (*fasten*; *harden*; *sweeten*), or from nouns (*heighten*; *lengthen*; *strengthen*). [ME, OE -n-, as in ME *fast-n-en*, OE *fæst-n-ian* to make fast, fasten]

-en-, a suffix used to form adjectives of source or material from nouns: *ashen*; *golden*; *oaken*. [ME, OE; c. OHG *-in*, L *-trius*; cf. -INE]

-en-, a suffix used to mark the past participle in many strong and some weak verbs: *taken*; *proven*. [ME, OE; c. G *-en*, ON *-inn*]

-en-, a suffix used in forming the plural of some nouns: *brethren*; *children*; *oxen*. [ME, OE -an, case ending of n-stem nouns, as in *naman* obl. sing., and nom. and acc. pl. of *nama* name]

-en-, a diminutive suffix: *kitten*; *maiden*. [ME, OE, from neut. of -EN']

en-a-ble (en ā'bəl), *v.t.*, **-bled**, **-bling**. 1. to make able; provide with means, ability, or opportunity: *A scholarship enabled her to attend college*. 2. to make possible or easy: *Lack of witnesses enabled him to get away with the crime*. 3. to authorize; empower: *documents enabling them to enter the building*. 4. to make ready; equip (often used in combination): *Web-enabled cell phones*. [1375-1425] —**en-a-bler**, *n.*

en-a-bling (en ā'bling), *adj.* conferring legal power or sanction, as by removing a disability: *an enabling act*. [1670-80]

en-act (en akt'), *v.t.* 1. to make into an act or statute: *to enact a new tax law*. 2. to represent in or as if in a play or the like; act the part of. [1375-1425] —**en-act/a-ble**, *adj.* —**en-act/or**, *n.*

en-act-ment (en akt'mənt), *n.* 1. the act or process of enacting. 2. the state or fact of being enacted. 3. something that is enacted; a law or statute. [1810-20]

en-am-el (i nam'əl), *n.*, *v.*, **-eled**, **-eling** or (*esp. Brit.*) **-elled**, **-eling**. —*n.* 1. a glassy substance, usu. opaque, applied by fusion to the surface of metal, pottery, etc., as an ornament or for protection. 2. ENAMELWARE. 3. any of various varnishes, paints, coatings, etc., drying to a hard, glossy finish. 4. an artistic work executed in enamel. 5. the hard, glossy, calcareous covering of the crown of a tooth. —*v.t.* 6. to inlay or overlay with enamel. [1275-1325; ME < AF *enamel*, *enmailler* = *en-* EN- + *-analer*, der. of *asmal*, *esmal* enamel, OF *esmail* (OH taken as the suffix -at) < Frankish **smalt* something melted, c. OHG *smalt* lat; akin to *SMELT*; cf. *SMALTO*] —**en-nam-el-er**, *n.* —**en-nam-el-ist**, *n.* —**en-nam-el-work/**, *n.*

en-nam-el-ware (i nam'əl wār'), *n.* metalware, as cooking utensils, covered with an enamel surface. [1900-05]

en-am-or (i nam'ər), *v.t.* to fill or inflame with love; charm; captivate (usu. used in the passive and fol. by *of*). Also, *esp. Brit.*, **en-am-our**. [1350-1400; ME < OF *enamouër*. See EN-, AMOUR]

en-antio-, a combining form meaning "opposite," "opposing": *enantiomorph*. [< Gk, comb. form of *enantios*. See EN-, ANTI-]

en-an-tio-mer (i nan'tē ə məi), *n.* either of a pair of optical isomers that are mirror images of each other. [1925-30]