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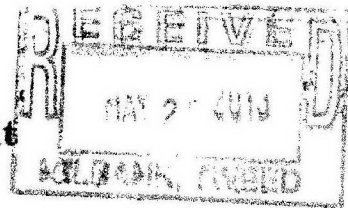
THIRD EDITION

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*Dedicated
to David B. Guralnik
lexicographical mentor and friend*

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service ceiling the altitude at which a specified kind of aircraft cannot, because of reduced atmospheric pressure, climb faster than a specified rate

service club 1 any of various clubs, as Rotary, Kiwanis, etc., organized to provide certain services for its members and to promote the community welfare 2 an armed services recreation center

service elevator an elevator used by servants and tradespeople and for carrying goods, baggage, etc.

service entrance an entrance used by tradespeople, employees, etc. rather than by the general public

service line 1 *Handball* the line marking the front of the zone within which the server must stand 2 *Tennis* the line parallel to the net beyond which a served ball must not strike the court

service-man (sar'vis man', -men) *n.*, pl. -men' (-men', -men) 1 a member of the armed forces 2 a person whose work is servicing or repairing something [*a radio serviceman*]; also **service man**

service mark a symbol, design, word, letter, slogan, etc. used by a supplier of a service, as transportation, laundry, etc. to distinguish the service from that of a competitor; usually registered and protected by law: cf. TRADEMARK

service module a component of certain spacecraft that contains various support systems and its own rocket engine; it is separated from the COMMAND MODULE before reentry

service station 1 a place providing maintenance service, parts, supplies, etc. for mechanical or electrical equipment 2 a place providing such service, and selling gasoline, oil, etc., for motor vehicles; gas station

service stripe a stripe, or any of the parallel diagonal stripes, worn on the left sleeve of a uniform to indicate years spent in the service

service tree [*ME servus*, pl. of obs. *serve* < OE *serfe* < VL **serba* < L *servus* < IE base **ser-*, **ser-*, red. reddish] 1 a European mountain ash (*Sorbus domestica*) having small, edible fruit 2 a European mountain ash, the wild service tree (*Sorbus torminalis*), similar to this

serviette (sar'vet'et) *n.* [*Fr* < *MFr* < *servir*, to SERVE + *-ette*, *-ET*] a table napkin

servile (sar'vel, -vil) *adj.* [*ME* < L *servilis* < *servus*, slave; see *SERV*] 1 of a slave or slaves 2 like that of slaves or servants (*servile employment*) 3 like or characteristic of a slave; humbly yielding or submissive; cringing; abject 4 [Archaic] held in slavery; not free — **servilely** *adv.* — **servility** (sar'vel'i-ti), *pl. -ties*, *n.* — **servileness** *n.*

servicing (sar'ven) *n.* 1 the act of one who serves 2 a helping, or single portion, of food — **adj.** used for, or suitable for giving food to a person or persons at the table (*a servicing dish*)

servitor (sar've-tor) *n.* [*ME* *servitor* < *OFr* < *LL* *servitor* < *pp.* of *L* *servire*, to serve] a person who serves another; servant, attendant, or, formerly, soldier

servitude (sar've-tood, -tyood) *n.* [*ME* < *MFr* < L *servitudo* < *servus*, slave; see *SERV*] 1 the condition of a slave, serf, or the like; subjection to a master; slavery or bondage 2 work imposed as punishment for crime 3 *Law* the burden placed upon the property of a person by a specified right another has in its use

SYN. — **servitude** refers to compulsory labor or service for another, often, specif., such labor imposed as punishment for crime; **slavery** implies absolute subjection to another person who owns and completely controls one; **bondage** originally referred to the condition of a serf bound to his master's land, but now implies any condition of subjugation or captivity — **ANT.** freedom, liberty

servo (sar'vo) *n.*, pl. -vos *short for:* 1 SERVOMECHANISM 2 SERVOMOTOR — **adj.** of, pertaining to, incorporating, or controlled by a servomechanism

servo-mechanism (sar'vo mek'a-niz'am) *n.* [*<* *fol.* + *MECHANISM*] an automatic control system in which the output is constantly or intermittently compared with the input through feedback so that the error or difference between the two quantities can be used to bring about the desired amount of control

servo-motor (sar'vo mot'or) *n.* [*<* *Fr* *servo-moteur* < L *servus*, slave (see *SERV*) + *Fr* *moteur*, MOTOR] a device, as an electric motor, hydraulic piston, etc., that is controlled by an amplified signal from a command device of low power, as in a servomechanism

sesame (ses'a-me) *n.* [*altered* (*infl.*) by *Gr*] < earlier *sesama* < L *sesamum* *sesama* < *Gr* *sésamon*, *sésamē*, ult. < Akkadian *shaman* *shammī*, oil of plants 1 a plant (*Sesamum indicum*) whose flat seeds yield an edible oil and are used for flavoring bread, rolls, etc. 2 its seeds See also OPEN SESAME

sesamoid (ses'a-moid) *adj.* [*Gr* *sésamoidēs* < *sésamon* (see *prec.*) + *-oidēs*, -oid] shaped like a sesame seed; specif., designating or of any of certain small bones developing in tendons, as at a joint, or any of certain small cartilaginous nodules in the nose — *n.* such a bone or cartilage

sesqui- (ses'kwī, -kwa, -kwē) [*L*, more by a half < *semis*, half (< *semi-*; see *SEMI-*) + *-que*, and < IE **kwes* (enclitic) > Sans *ca*, *Gr* *ta*, *Qir* *ch*, *Guth* *n*] combining form 1 one and a half [*sesquicentennial*] 2 (*Chem.*) containing two atoms of one radical or element combined with three of another [*sesquicarbonate*]

sesqui-carbon-ate (ses'kwī kār'ba-nit, -nāt) *n.* [*prec.* + CARBON-ATE] a carbonate in which there are three carbonate radicals for each two metal atoms

sesqui-cent-ten-nial (-sen'ten'ē-əl, -ten'yāl) *adj.* of or ending a period of 150 years — *n.* a 150th anniversary or its commemoration

sesqui-oxide (ses'kwē ōk'sid) *n.* [*SESQUI-* + OXIDE] an oxide in which three atoms or equivalents of oxygen are combined with two of some other element or radical

sesqui-pe-da-lian (ses'kwī pē dā'lē-ən, -pō dā'l'yən) *adj.* [*<* L *sesquipedalis*, of a foot and a half < *sesqui-* (see *SESQUI-*) + *pedalis* < *pes* (*gen. pedis*), a foot] 1 measuring a foot and a half 2 very long; said of words 3 using, or characterized by the use of, long words

Also **ses** *quip'edai* (-kwip'ē-dā) — *n.* a long word — **ses-quit-pe-dē-** *ti-an-ism* *n.*

ses-side (ses'sīl, -sī) *adj.* [*L* *sessilis* < *sessus*, *pp.* of *sedere*, to SIT] 1 (*Biol.*) attached directly by its base 2 permanently fixed; immobile 2 *Bot.* having no pedicel or peduncle; attached directly to the main stem, as the flower and leaves of a trillium plant

ses-sion (sesh'ən) *n.* [*ME* < L *sessio* < *sedere*, to SIT] 1 a) the sitting together or meeting of a group; assembly, as of a court, legislature, council, etc. b) a continuous, day-to-day series of such meetings c) the term or period of such a meeting or meetings 2 a) a school term b) a day when school is open for classes 3 the governing body of a Presbyterian church, consisting of the minister and elders 4 a period of activity of any kind [*a session with the dentist*] — **in session** officially meeting; assembled — **ses-sional** *adj.*

Ses-sions (sesh'onz), Roger (Huntington) 1896-1965; U.S. composer

ses-ter-ce (ses'ters') *n.* [*L* *sestertius* (*nummus*), for *sestis tertius*, two and a half asses, because equal in value to two and a half asses] an old Roman coin, orig. of silver, later of brass or copper, equal to 1/4 denarius

ses-ter-tium (ses tar'shē-əm, -shəm) *n.*, pl. -tia (-shē-ə, -shə) [*L* < (*mille*) *sestertium*, *gen. pl.* of *sestertius*; see *prec.*] a monetary unit of ancient Rome, equal to 1,000 sesterces

ses-tet (ses tet', ses'tet') *n.* [*It* *sesteto*, *dim.* of *sesto*, sixth < L *sextus*, sixth < *sex*, SIX] 1 *Music* *SEXTET* 2 a) the final six lines of a Petrarchan sonnet b) a poem or stanza of six lines

ses-tina (ses tē'nā) *n.*, pl. -nas or -nes (-nā) [*It* < *sesto*, sixth; see *prec.*] an elaborate verse form of six six-line stanzas and a tercet; the end words of the first stanza are repeated in varying combinations in the other five stanzas and the tercet

Ses-tos (ses'tōs) town in ancient Thrace, on the Hellespont opposite Abydos

set (set) *vt.* **set**, **set'ting** [*ME* *setten* < OE *settan* (akin to *Ger* *setzen* & Goth *satjan* < Gmc **satjan*), caus. formation "to cause to sit" < base of *SIT*] 1 to place in a sitting position; cause to sit; seat 2 a) to cause (a fowl) to sit on eggs in order to hatch them b) to put (eggs) under a fowl or in an incubator to hatch them 3 to put in a certain place or position; cause to be, lie, stand, etc. in a place [*set the book on the table*] 4 to put in the proper or designated place [*set a wheel on an axle*] 5 to put or move (a part of the body) into or on a specified place [*set foot on land*] 6 to bring (something) into contact with something else [*set a burn*] 7 to put a paper by setting a match to it/ 7 a) [Archaic] to put in writing; record b) to put or affix (one's signature, seal, etc.) to a document 8 to cause to be in some condition or relation; specif., a) to cause to be or become [*set a house on fire*] b) to put in a certain physical position [*set a book on end*] 9 to cause to be in working or proper condition; put in order; arrange; fix; adjust; specif., a) to fix (a net, trap, etc.) in a position to catch animals b) to fix (a sail) in a position to catch the wind c) to put (a part of a device) in position to work [*set a chuck on a lathe*] d) to adjust so as to be in a desired position for use; regulate [*set a radio dial*, a clock, a thermostat, etc.] e) to place (oneself) in readiness for action f) to put an edge on (a knife, razor, etc.) g) to adjust (a saw) by slightly deflecting alternate teeth in opposite directions h) to sink (the head of a nail, screw, etc.) below a surface i) to arrange (a table) with knives, forks, plates, etc. for a meal j) to put (a dislocated joint or fractured bone) into normal position for healing, mending, etc. 10 to cause to be in a settled or firm position; specif., a) to put or press into a fixed or rigid position [*set one's jaw*] b) to cause (one's mind, purpose, etc.) to be fixed, unyielding, determined, etc. c) to cause to become firm or hard in consistency [*pectin sets jelly*] d) to make (a color) fast in dyeing e) to mount, embed, or fix (gems) in rings, bracelets, etc. f) to cover, encrust, or decorate (gold, watches, etc.) with gems g) to fix firmly in a frame [*set the glass in the window*] h) to arrange (hair) in the desired style with lotions, hairpins, etc. and let it dry i) to transplant (a shoot, etc.) 11 to cause to take a particular direction; specif., a) to cause to move as specified; propel [*set the current set them eastward*] b) to point, direct, or face as specified [*set one's face toward home*] c) to direct (one's desires, hopes, heart, etc.) with serious attention (in or on someone or something) 12 to appoint, establish, ordain, etc.; specif., a) to post or station for certain duties [*set sentries at a gate*] b) to place in a position of authority c) to fix (limits or boundaries) d) to fix or appoint (a time) for something to happen [*set Friday as the deadline*] e) to fix a time for (an event) f) to establish (a regulation, law, record, etc.) or prescribe (a form, order, etc.) g) to give or furnish (an example, pattern, etc.) for others h) to introduce (a fashion, style, etc.) i) to allot or assign (a task, lesson, etc.) for work or study j) to fix (a quota, as of work) for a given period k) to begin to apply (oneself) to a task, etc. 13 to estimate or fix; place mentally; specif., a) to fix (the amount of a price, fine, etc.) b) to fix (a price, fine, etc.) at a specified amount c) to estimate or value [*set at naught all that one has won*] d) to fix or put as an estimate [*set little store by someone*] 14 *Baking* to put aside (leavened dough) to rise 15 *Bridge* to prevent (one's opponents) from making their bid 16 *Hunting* to point toward the position of (game); said of a dog 17 *Music* to write or fit (words to music or music to words) 18 *Printing* a) to arrange (type) for printing b) to produce or reproduce (printed matter) c) to produce or reproduce composition d) to put (a piece of writing) into print 19 *Theater* a) to place (a scene) in a given locale b) to make up or arrange (scenery)

*at, āte, cār, ten, ave; in, ice; gō, hōrn, look, tōōl; oil, out; up, fur, a for unstressed vowels, as a in ago, u in locus; * as in Latin (lat'ni); chin; she; zh as in azure (azh'or); thin, the; ŋ as in ring (rīŋ) In etymologies: * = unattested; < = derived from; = from which*

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