
The New Oxford American Dictionary

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seizing /'sɛɪzɪŋ/ ▶ *n.* *archaic Nautical* a length of cord or rope used for fastening or tying.

seizure /'sɛɪzər/ ▶ *n.* **1** the action of capturing someone or something using force: *the seizure of the Assembly building* | *the Nazi seizure of power*. ■ the action of confiscating or impounding property by warrant of legal right. **2** a sudden attack of illness, esp. a stroke or an epileptic fit: *the patient had a seizure*.

se-jaunt /'sɛjənt/ ▶ *adj.* [*usu. postpositive*] *Heraldry* (of an animal) sitting upright. ▶ late 15th cent.: alteration of an Old French variant of *seant* 'sitting,' from the verb *seoir*, from Latin *sedere* 'sit.'

Sejm /sɛjm/ (also **Seym**) ▶ *n.* the lower house of parliament in Poland. ▶ Polish.

Sekh-met /'sɛkmet/ *Egyptian Mythology* a ferocious lioness-goddess, counterpart of the gentle cat-goddess Bastet and wife of Ptah at Memphis.

Sekt /zɛkt/ ▶ *n.* a German sparkling white wine. ▶ German.

sel. ▶ *abbr.* ■ select. ■ selected. ■ selection; selections.

se-la-chi-an /sə'lækɪən/ *Zoology* ▶ *n.* an elasmobranch fish of a group that comprises the sharks and dogfishes. • The former group Selachii, subclass Elasmobranchii; now treated as one, two, or three superorders.

▶ *adj.* of or relating to the selachians. ▶ mid 19th cent.: from modern Latin *Selachii* (from Greek *selakhos* 'shark') + *-AN*.

se-la-dang /sə'lādɑŋ/ ▶ *n.* another term for GAUR. ▶ early 19th cent.: from Malay.

se-lag-i-nel-la /sə'ləjə'nələ/ ▶ *n.* a creeping mosslike plant of a genus that includes the lesser club mosses. • Genus *Selaginella*, family Selaginellaceae. ▶ modern Latin, diminutive of Latin *selago* 'club moss.'

se-lah /'sɛlə; 'sel-/ ▶ *exclam.* (in the Bible) occurring frequently at the end of a verse in Psalms and Habakkuk, probably as a musical direction. ▶ from Hebrew *selāh*.

Sel-craig /'sɛl,kraɪ/ see SELKIRK.

seldom /'sɛldəm/ ▶ *adv.* not often; rarely: *Islay is seldom visited by tourists* | *he was seldom absent* | [*in combination*] *an old seldom-used church*.

▶ *adj.* [*attrib.*] dated not common; infrequent: *a great but seldom pleasure*. ▶ Old English *seldan*, of Germanic origin; related to Dutch *selden* and German *selten*, from a base meaning 'strange, wonderful.'

se-lect /sə'lekt/ ▶ *v.* [*trans.*] carefully choose as being the best or most suitable: *students must select their own program* | [*trans.*] *he has been selected to take part* | [*intrans.*] *you can select from a range of quality products*. ■ [*intrans.*] (*select for/against*) *Biology* (in terms of evolution) determine whether (a characteristic or organism) will survive: *a phenotype can be selected against*. ■ use a mouse or keystrokes to mark (something) on a computer screen for a particular operation.

▶ *adj.* (of a group of people or things) carefully chosen from a larger number as being the best or most valuable: *he joined his select team of young Intelligence operatives*. ■ (of a place or group of people) only used by or consisting of a wealthy or sophisticated elite; exclusive: *the opera was seen by a small and highly select audience*. ▶ mid 16th cent.: from Latin *select-* 'chosen,' from the verb *selegere*, from *se-* 'apart' + *legere* 'choose.' —*se-lect-a-ble adj.* —*se-lect-ness n.*

select com-mit-tee ▶ *n.* a small legislative committee appointed for a special purpose: [*in titles*] *the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence*.

se-lect-ee /sə'lekt'i/ ▶ *n.* a person who is selected. ■ a conscript.

se-lec-tion /sə'lektʃən/ ▶ *n.* **1** the action or fact of carefully choosing someone or something as being the best or most suitable: *such men decided the selection of candidates* | *they objected to his selection*. ■ a number of carefully chosen things: *the publication of a selection of his poems*. ■ a range of things from which a choice may be made: *the restaurant offers a wide selection of hot and cold dishes*. ■ a horse or horses tipped as worth bets in a race or meeting. **2** *Computing* data highlighted on a computer screen that is a target for various manipulations: *your selection may not contain two different data types*. ■ the action or capability of selecting data in this way. **3** *Biology* a process in which environmental or genetic influences determine which types of organism thrive better than others, regarded as a factor in evolution. See also NATURAL SELECTION. ▶ early 17th cent.: from Latin *se-*

or relating to the process by which only certain words or structures can occur naturally, normally, or correctly in the context of other words. —*se-lec-tion-al-ly adv.*

se-lec-tion pres-sure ▶ *n.* *Biology* an agent of differential mortality or fertility that tends to make a population change genetically.

se-lec-tion rule ▶ *n.* *Physics* a rule that describes whether particular quantum transitions in an atom or molecule are allowed or forbidden.

se-lec-tive /sə'lektɪv/ ▶ *adj.* relating to or involving the selection of the most suitable or best qualified: *the mini-cow is the result of generations of selective breeding*. ■ (of a person) tending to choose carefully: *he is very selective in his reading*. ■ (of a process or agent) affecting some things and not others: *modern pesticides are more selective in effect*. ■ chiefly *Electronics* operating at or responding to a particular frequency. —*se-lec-tive-ly adv.*

se-lec-tive at-ten-tion ▶ *n.* *Psychology* the capacity for or process of reacting to certain stimuli selectively when several occur simultaneously.

se-lec-tive-ness /sə'lektɪvnɪs/ ▶ *n.* another term for SELECTIVITY.

se-lec-tive ser-vice ▶ *n.* service in the armed forces under conscription.

se-lec-tiv-i-ty /sə'lektɪvɪtɪ/ ▶ *n.* the quality of carefully choosing someone or something as the best or most suitable: *provision is organized on the principle of selectivity*. ■ the property of affecting some things and not others. ■ *Electronics* the ability of a device to respond to a particular frequency without interference from others.

se-lect-man /sə'lektmən/ ▶ *n.* (*pl. -men*) a member of the local government board of a New England town.

se-lect-or /sə'lektər/ ▶ *n.* a person or thing that selects something, in particular: ■ a device for selecting a particular gear or other setting of a machine or device.

Se-len-e /sə'lenē/ *Greek Mythology* the goddess of the moon who fell in love with Endymion. ▶ from Greek *selēnē* 'moon.'

se-le-nic acid /sə'lenɪk; '-lə-/ ▶ *n.* *Chemistry* a crystalline acid analogous to sulfuric acid, made by oxidizing certain selenium compounds. • Chem. formula: H_2SeO_4 . —*se-le-nate* /'sɛlə,nɑt/ *n.*

se-le-nite /'sɛlə,nɪt/ ▶ *n.* a form of gypsum occurring as transparent crystals, sometimes in thin plates. ▶ mid 17th cent.: via Latin from Greek *selēnitēs lithos* 'moonstone,' from *selēnē* 'moon' + *lithos* 'stone.'

se-le-ni-um /sə'leniəm/ ▶ *n.* the chemical element of atomic number 34, a gray crystalline nonmetal with semiconducting properties. (Symbol: **Se**) ▶ early 19th cent.: modern Latin, from Greek *selēnē* 'moon.' —*se-le-nide* /'sɛlə,nɪd; -nɪd/ *n.*

se-le-ni-um cell ▶ *n.* a photoelectric device containing a piece of selenium.

sele-no- ▶ *comb. form* of, relating to, or shaped like the moon: *selenography*. ▶ from Greek *selēnē* 'moon.'

se-le-no-dont /sə'lenə,dənt/ ▶ *adj.* *Zoology* (of molar teeth) having crescent-shaped ridges on the grinding surfaces, characteristic of the ruminants. ■ (of an ungulate) having such teeth. ▶ late 19th cent.: from **SELENO-** 'moon-shaped' + Greek *odont-* 'tooth.'

se-le-nog-ra-phy /,sɛlə'nəgrəfɪ/ ▶ *n.* the scientific mapping of the moon; lunar geography. —*se-le-nog-ra-pher* /-fər/ *n.* —*se-le-no-graph-ic* /,sɛlənə'græfɪk/ *adj.* —*se-le-no-graph-i-cal* /,sɛlənə'græfɪkəl/ *adj.*

se-le-nol-o-gy /,sɛlə'nələʒɪ/ ▶ *n.* the scientific study of the moon. —*se-le-nol-o-gist* /-jɪst/ *n.*

Seles /'sɛləs/ Monica (1973–), U.S. tennis player, born in Yugoslavia. She was the youngest woman to win a grand slam singles title (French Open 1990). She went on to win there again and at the U.S. Open in 1991 and 1992 and at the Australian Open 1991–93 and 1996. Stabbed on the court by a fan of Steffi Graf in 1993, she returned to play in 1995.

Se-leu-cid /sə'li(y)ʊdɪsɪd/ ▶ *adj.* relating to or denoting a dynasty ruling over Syria and a great part of western Asia from 311 to 65 bc. Its capital was at Antioch.

▶ *n.* a member of this dynasty. ▶ from Seleucus Nicator (the name of the founder, one of Alexander the Great's generals) + *-ID*.

self /self/ ▶ *n.* (*pl. selves* /selvz/) a person's essential being that distinguishes them from others, esp. con-

person's sense of self. ■ [*with adj.*] a person's particular nature or personality; the qualities that make a person individual or unique: *by the end of the round he was back to his old self* | *Paula seemed to be her usual cheerful self*. ■ one's own interests or pleasure: *to love in an unpossessive way implies the total surrender of self*.

▶ *pron.* (*pl. selves*) oneself, in particular: ■ [*with adj.*] (*one's self*) used ironically to refer in specified glowing terms to oneself or someone else: *the only side worth supporting is your own sweet self*.

▶ *adj.* [*attrib.*] (of a trimming or cover) of the same material and color as the rest of the item: *a dress with self belt*.

▶ *v.* [*trans.*] chiefly *Botany* self-pollinate; self-fertilize: [*as n.*] (*selfing*) *the flowers never open and pollination is normally by selfing*. ■ [*usu. as adj.*] (*selfed*) *Genetics* cause (an animal or plant) to breed with or fertilize one of the same hybrid origin or strain: *progeny were derived from selfed crosses*. ▶ Old English, of Germanic origin; related to Dutch *self* and German *selbe*. Early use was emphatic, expressing the sense '(I) myself,' '(he) himself,' etc. The verb dates from the early 20th cent.

self- ▶ *comb. form* of or directed toward oneself or itself: *self-hatred*. ■ by one's own efforts; by its own action: *self-acting*. ■ on, in, for, or relating to oneself or itself: *self-adhesive*.

self-a-ban-don-ment (also **self-a-ban-don**) ▶ *n.* the action of completely surrendering oneself to a desire or impulse. —*self-a-ban-doned adj.*

self-a-base-ment ▶ *n.* the belittling or humiliation of oneself: *he began to apologize with copious tears and self-abasement*.

self-ab-ne-ga-tion ▶ *n.* the denial or abasement of oneself: *she turned the letter into a groveling form of self-abnegation*.

self-ab-sorp-tion ▶ *n.* **1** preoccupation with one's own emotions, interests, or situation. **2** *Physics* the absorption by a body of radiation which it has itself emitted. —*self-ab-sorbed adj.*

self-a-buse /ə'byʊs/ ▶ *n.* behavior that causes damage or harm to oneself. ■ used euphemistically to refer to masturbation.

self-ac-cu-sa-tion ▶ *n.* the action of accusing oneself, stemming from feelings of guilt. —*self-ac-cu-sa-to-ry adj.*

self-act-ing ▶ *adj.* *archaic* (of a machine or operation) acting without external influence or control; automatic.

self-ac-tu-al-i-za-tion ▶ *n.* the realization or fulfillment of one's talents and potentialities, esp. considered as a drive or need present in everyone.

self-ad-dressed ▶ *adj.* (esp. of an envelope) bearing one's own address: *enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope*.

self-ad-he-sive ▶ *adj.* coated with a sticky substance; adhering without requiring moistening.

self-ad-just-ing ▶ *adj.* (chiefly of machinery) adjusting itself to meet varying requirements. —*self-ad-just-ment n.*

self-ad-mi-ra-tion ▶ *n.* the admiration of oneself; pride. —*self-ad-mir-ing adj.*

self-ad-vance-ment ▶ *n.* the advancement or promotion of oneself or one's interests: *a positive step in women's self-advancement*.

self-ad-ver-tise-ment ▶ *n.* the active publicization of oneself: *he turned the group into a vehicle for self-advertisement*. —*self-ad-ver-tis-er n.* —*self-ad-ver-tis-ing adj.*

self-ad-vo-ca-cy ▶ *n.* the action of representing oneself or one's views or interests.

self-af-fir-ma-tion ▶ *n.* the recognition and assertion of the existence and value of one's individual self.

self-ag-gran-dize-ment ▶ *n.* the action or process of promoting oneself as being powerful or important. —*self-ag-gran-diz-ing adj.*

self-al-i-en-a-tion ▶ *n.* the process of distancing oneself from one's own feelings or activities, such as may occur in mental illness or as a symptom of emotional distress.

self-a-lign-ing ▶ *adj.* (of a bearing or machine part) capable of aligning itself automatically.

self-a-nal-y-sis ▶ *n.* the analysis of oneself, in particular one's motives and character. —*self-an-a-lyz-ing adj.*

self-an-ni-hi-la-tion ▶ *n.* the annihilation or obliteration of self, esp. as a process of mystical contemplation.

self-ap-point-ed ▶ *adj.* [*attrib.*] having assumed a posi-

