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SECOND EDITION

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RANDOM HOUSE REFERENCE

NEW YORK TORONTO LONDON SYDNEY AUCKLAND



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Random House Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, Second Edition, is a revised and updated edition of The Random House Dictionary of the English Language, Second Edition, Unabridged.

International Phonetic Alphabet courtesy of International Phonetic Association

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data is available.

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Typeset and printed in the United States of America.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2



sel·cen·to (sa chen/to; It. se chen/to), n. (often cap.) the 17th century, with reference to the Italian art or literature of that period. [1900–05; < It. short for mille seicento lit., a thousand six hundred]

seiche (sāsh), n. an occasional and sudden oscillation of the water of a lake, bay, estuary, etc., producing fluctuations in the water level and caused by wind, earthquakes, changes in barometric pressure, etc. [1830–40; < Franco-Proveneal] Franco-Provençal]

sei-del (sid/l, zid/l), n. a large beer mug with a capacity of one liter (1.1 quarts) and often having a hinged lid. [1905–10; < G; MHG sidel < L situla bucket]

Seid/litz pow/ders (sed/lits), a mild laxative consisting of tartaric acid, sodium bicarbonate, and Rochelle salt, which are dissolved separately, mixed, and drunk after effervescence. [1805–15; a town in Bohemia]

seif (sāf, sīf), n. a long narrow sand dune parallel to the prevailing wind direction. [< Ar sayf sword]

Sei-fert (si/fert), n. Ja-ro-slav 1901, Czech poet: Nobel prize 1984. Ja-ro-slav (yä/Rô släf), born

Sei-gneur (sen yûr', san.; Fr. se nyœr'), n., pl. sei-gneurs (sen yûr', san.; Fr. se nyœr'). (sometimes cap.)
1. a lord, esp. a feudal lord. 2. (in French Canada) a holder of a seigneury. [1585-95; < F < VL *senior lord. See SENIOR] —sei-gneu-ri-al (sen yûr'e əl, sān-), adj.

sei-gneur-y (sēn'yo rē, sān'-), n. 1. the domain of a seigneur. 2. (in French Canada) land originally held by grant from the king of France. [1675-85; < F seigneurie; see SEIGNEUR, -y²]

Seign-ior (sen/yer), n. (sometimes cap.) a lord, esp. a feudal lord; ruler. [1300-50; ME segnour < AF; see Sei-

seign-ior-age (sen/yer ij), n. 1. something claimed by a sovereign or superior as a prerogative. 2. a charge on bullion brought to the mint to be coined. 3. the difference between the cost of the bullion plus minting expenses and the value as money of the pieces coined, constituting a source of government revenue. Also, seign/or-age. [1400-50; late ME seigneurage < MF seignorage, seigneurage; see SEIGNEUR, -AGE]

Seign-ior-y (sēn/yə rē), n., pl. -ior-ies. 1. the power or authority of a seignior. 2. Hist. a lord's domain. Also, signory. [1250-1300; ME seignorie < OF; see SEIGNEUR,

sei-gno-ri-al (sen yôr/e al, -yōr/-), adj. of or pertaining to a seignior. Also, seign-ior-al (sen/yər al), sei-gnio-ri-al (sen yôr/e al, -yōr/-), seign-or-al (sen/yər al). [1810-20; seignor (var. of seignior) - -IAL]

Sei-le-nos (sī lē/nəs), n. Silenus.

seine (sān), n., v., seined, sein-ing. —n. 1. a fishing net that hangs vertically in the water, having floats at the upper edge and sinkers at the lower. —v.t. 2. to fish for or catch with a seine. 3. to use a seine in (water). —v.i. 4. to fish with a seine. [bef. 950; ME seyne, OE segne < WGmc *sagina < L sagēna < Gk sagēnē]

Seine (sān; Fr. sen), n. 1. a river in France, flowing NW through Paris to the English Channel. 480 mi. (773 km) long. 2. a former department in N France.



Seine-et-Marne (sān/ā märn/; Fr. sen ā marn/), n. a department in N France. 755,762; 2290 sq. mi. (5930 sq. km). Cap.: Melun.

Seine-et-Oise (sen \bar{a} waz'), n. a former department in N France.

Seine-Ma-ri-time (sen mä rē tēm'), n. a department in NW France. 1,172,743; 2449 sq. mi. (6340 sq. km). Cap.: Rouen. Formerly, Seine-In-fé-rieure (sen an fā-Rouen.

Sein-er (sā/nər), n. **1.** a person who fishes with a seine. **2.** a boat used in fishing with a seine. [1595–1605; SEINE + -ER¹]

Seine-St-De-nis (sen san də nē/), n. a department in N France. 1,322,127; 91 sq. mi. (236 sq. km). Cap.: Bobigny.

Seir-i-os (sir/ē əs), n. Class. Myth. Sirius (def. 2).

soise (sēz), v.t., v.i. solsed, sols-ing. Chiefly Law. seize. —sois'a-ble, adj. —sois'er, n.

sei-sin (sē/zin), n. Law. seizin.

seis-ing (se/zing), n. Chiefly Law. seizing.

seism (si/zəm, -səm), n. an earthquake. [1880-85; < Gk seismós, equiv. to seis-, s. of seiein to shake, quake + -mos n. suffix; cf. -ISM]

sels-mic (siz/mik, sis-), adj. pertaining to, of the nature of, or caused by an earthquake or vibration of the carth, whether due to natural or artificial causes. Also, seis/mal, seis/mi-cal. [1855-60; seis/m + -ic] —seis/ mi-cal-ly, adv.

CONCISE ETYMOLOGY KEY: <, descended or borrowed from; >, whence; b., blend of, blended; c., cognate with; cf., compare; deriv., derivative; equiv., equivalent; imit, imitative; obl., oblique; r., replacing; s., stem; sp., spelling, spelled; resp., respelling, respelled; trans, translation; ?, origin unknown; *, unattested; ‡, probably earlier than. See the full key inside the front cover.

indicating the buildup of stresses that are useful in predicting earthquakes

Seis-mic-i-ty (siz mis/i tē, sis-), n., pl. -ties. the frequency, intensity, and distribution of earthquakes in a given area. [1900-05; SEISMIC + -ITY]

seis/mic sea/ wave/, Oceanog. tsunami.

Seis-mism (siz/miz əm, sis/-), n. the natural activity or group of phenomena associated with earthquakes. [1900-05; SEISM + -ISM]

seismo-, a combining form meaning "earthquake," used in the formation of compound words: seismograph.

[see SEISM, -o-] seismo-.

seis·mo·gram (siz/mə gram/, sis/-), n. a record made by a seismograph. [1890-95; seismo- + -GRAM¹]

Sels-mo-graph (siz/mə graf/, grāf/, sis/-), n. any of various instruments for measuring and recording the vibrations of earthquakes. [1855-60: sismo- + -GRAPH]
—sels-mo-graph-ic (siz/mə graf/ik, sis/-), seis/mo-

sels-mog-ra-phy (siz mog're fe, sis-), n. 1. the scientific measuring and recording of the shock and vibrations of earthquakes. 2. seismology. [1860-65; SEIS-MO-+-GRAPHY]—sels-mog'ra-pher, n.

seismol., 1. seismological. 2. seismology.

sels-mol·ogy (siz mol/o je, sis-), n. the science or study of earthquakes and their phenomena. Also called selsmography. [1855-60; seismo-+ -logy] —selsmo-log/ic (siz/mo loj/ik, sis/-), sels/mo-log/ical, adj.—sels/mo-log/i-cal-ly, adv.—sels-mol/o-gist, n.

seis-mome-ter (siz mom'i ter, sis-), n. a seismograph equipped for measuring the direction, intensity, and duration of earthquakes by measuring the actual movement of the ground. [1835-45; SEISMO- + -METER]—seis-mo-met-ric (siz/ma me'trik, sis/-), sels/mo-met/ri-cal, adj. —seis-mom'et-ry, n.

seis-mo-scope (siz/mə sköp', sis/-), n. an instrument for recording the occurrence or time of an earthquake. [1850-55; seismo- +-scope] —seis-mo-scop-ic (siz/-mə skop'ik, sis/-), adj.

SEIU, Service Employees International Union.

sei' whale' (sa), a rorqual, Balaenoptera borealis, habiting all seas: now greatly reduced in number. [1915-20; < Norw seihval, equiv. to sei (ON seithr) coalfish + hval WHALE1]

20; < Norw seihval, equiv. to sei (ON seithr) coainsn + hval whale*]

Seize (sēz), v., seized, seiz-ing. —v.t. 1. to take hold of suddenly or forcibly; grasp: to seize a weapon. 2. to grasp mentally; understand clearly and completely: to seize an idea. 3. to take possession of by force or at will: to seize enemy ships. 4. to take possession or control of as if by suddenly laying hold: Panic seized the crowd. 5. to take possession of by legal authority; confiscate: to seize smuggled goods. 6. Also, seises. Law. to put (someone) in seizin or legal possession of property (usually used in passive constructions): She was seized of vast estates. 7. to capture; take into custody. 8. to take advantage of promptly: to seize an apportunity. 9. Naut. to bind or fasten together with a seizing. —v.i. 10. to grab or take hold suddenly or forcibly (usually fol. by on or upon): to seize on a rope. 11. to resort to a method, plan, etc., in desperation (usually fol. by on or upon): The engine seized up from cold. [1250–1300; ME saisen, seisen < OF saisir < ML sacire to place (in phrase sacire ad propriētam to take as one's own, lay claim to) < Frankish, perh. akin to Goth satjan to ser, put, place] —seiz/a-ble, adj. —seiz/er; Law. sei-zor. —Svm. 1. clutch, grab. 7. arrest, apprehend. See put, place] —seiz/a-bie, adj. —seiz/er; Law. sei-zor (sē/zər, -zōr), n. —Syn. 1. clutch, grab. 7. arrest, apprehend. See catch. —Ant. 7. release.

sei-zin (se'zin), n. Law. 1. (originally) possession of either land or chattel. 2. the kind of possession or right to possession characteristic of estates of freehold. Also, seisin. [1250-1300; ME < OF saisine, equiv. to sais(ir) to</p> + -ine -INE²]

selz-ing (se'zing), n. 1. the act of a person or thing that seizes. 2. Naut. a means of binding or fastening together two objects, as two ropes, by a number of longitudinal and transverse turns of marline, wire, or other small stuff. [1300-50; ME; see SEIZE, -ING¹]

seizing (def. 2)



Sei-Zure (sē/zhər), n. 1. the act or an instance of seizing. 2. the state of being seized. 3. a taking possession of an item, property, or person legally or by force. 4. a sudden attack, as of epilepsy or some other disease. [1475-85; SEIZE + -URE]

Se-jant (se/jant), adj. Heraldry. (of an animal) represented in a sitting posture: a lion sejant. Also, **se/jeant**. [1490-1500; var. of seiante < AF; MF seant, equiv. to se(s. of seoir < L sedēre to sit') + -ant -ANT]

se-jant-e-rect (sē/jənt i rekt/), adj. Heraldry. (of an animal) represented as seated upright with forelegs raised: a lion sejant-erect. Also, se/jeant-e-rect/.

Se-ja-nus (si jā/nəs), n. Lucius Ae-il-us (ē/lē əs), d. a.b. 31, Roman politician, commander of praetorian guard, and conspirator in the reign of Emperor Tiberius. Sejm (sām), n. the unicameral parliament of Poland. [< Pol: assembly < Slavic *sūjimū equiv. to *sū- with, together + -jīmū, nogyiv. of jīm- v. base meaning which the available forward and reverse gears may be take, buy (cf. consumants) | Sage | S

attempted to destroy humankind. [vocalization of Egyptian shm powerful (cf. pschent) + t fem. marker]

Se-kon-di-Ta-ko-ra-di (sek/ən dē/tā/kə rä/dē), n. seaport in SW Ghana. 161,071.

seaport in SW Chana. 102,97.1.

se-kos (sē/kos), n. 1. (in ancient Greece) a. a sanctuary. b. the cella of a temple. 2. any of various other shrines or sanctuaries. Also, secos. [1810-20; < Gk

Sekt (zekt), n. German. sparkling wine; champagne. sel (sel), n., adj., pron. Scot. self.

sel., 1. select. 2. selected. 3. selection; selections.

Selachi. 1. selections selections selections. See lachian (si la/kē ən), adj. 1. belonging to the sharks, shar

se-la-dang (si lä/däng), n. the gaur. [1810-20; Malay]

se-lah (sē'lə, sel'ə), n. an expression occurring frequently in the Psalms, thought to be a liturgical or musical direction, probably a direction by the leader to raise the voice or perhaps an indication of a pause. [1520-30;

se-lam-lik (si läm/lik), n. the portion of a Turkish palace or house reserved for men. [1890-95; < Turk se. lamlik]

Se-lan-gor (sə lang/ər, -ôr, -läng/-), n. a state in Malaysia, on the SW Malay Peninsula. 1,467,441; 3160 sq. mi. (8184 sq. km). Cap.: Shah Alam.

sel-couth (sel/koōth/), adj. Archaic. strange; uncommon. [bef. 900; ME selcouth, OE seldcūth, equiv. to seld(an) Seldom + cūth COUTH²] —sel/couth/jy, adv.

Sel-den (sel/dən), n. 1. George Baldwin, 1846-1922 U.S. inventor of a gasoline-powered car. 2. John, 1584-1654, English historian, Orientalist, and politician. 3. a city on N Long Island, in SE New York. 17,259.

rarely; infrequently; not often: We seldom see our old neighbors anymore. —adj. 2. rare; infrequent. [bef. 900; ME; OE seldom, var. of seldan; c. G selten, Goth silda-] —sel/dom-ness, n.

silda-] —sel'dom·ness, n.

se-lect (si lekt'), v.t. 1. to choose in preference to another or others; pick out. —v.i. 2. to make a choice, pick. —adj. 3. chosen in preference to another or others; selected. 4. choice; of special value. 5. careful or fastidious in selecting; discriminating. 6. carefully or fastidiously chosen; exclusive: a select group. [1555-65; < L selectus (ptp. of seligere to gather apart), equiv. to se-se- + leg(ere) to gather, choose + -tus ptp. suffix! —se-lec'ta-ble, adj. —se-lec'ta-lil'ity, n. —se-lec'ty, adv. —se-lec'to-ss, n. —se-lec'tor, n. —se-lec'tor, n. —se-lec'ta-ble, cafi. —se-lec'tor for n. —se-lec'ta-ble, cafi. —se-lec'tor for n. —se-lec'ta-ble, cafi. —se-lec'tor, n. —se-lec'ta-ble, cafi. —se-lec'tor, n. —se-lec'tor, n. —se-lec'ta-ble, cafi. —se-lec'tor, n. —se-lec'tor, n. —se-lec'ta-ble, cafi. —se-lec'tor, n. —se-lec'ta-ble, cafi. —se-lec'tor, n. —se-le

se-lect-ance (si lek'tens), n. a measure of the drop in response of a radio receiving set or the like to a given frequency differing from the resonant frequency of the device, expressed as the ratio of the amplitude of the response at the resonant frequency to the amplitude of the response at the given frequency. [SELECT + -ANCE]

select' commit'tee, a committee, as of a legislative body, that is formed to examine and report on a specific bill or issue. Also called special committee. [1780-90,

Se-lect-ee (si lek tē/), n. one selected by draft for service in one of the armed forces. [1935–40, Amer.; SELECT + -EE]

service in one of the armed forces. [1930–40, Amer., 52]

Se-lec-tion (si lek'shan), n. 1. an act or instance of selecting or the state of being selected; choice. 2. a thing or a number of things selected. 3. an aggregate of things displayed for choice, purchase, use, etc.; a group from which a choice may be made: The store had a wide selection of bracelets. 4. Biol. any natural or artificial process that results in differential reproduction among the members of a population so that the inheritable traits of only certain individuals are passed on, or are passed on in greater proportion, to succeeding generations. Cf. natural selection, sexual selection, kin selection, artificial selection. 5. Ling. a. the choice of one form instead of another in a position where either can occur, as of ask instead of tell or with in the phrase ask me. b. the choice of one semantic or syntactic class of words in a construction, to the exclusion of others that of not occur there, as the choice of an animate object for the verb surprise. [1640–50; < L selection. (s. of selectio), equiv. to select(us) (see SELECT) + -ion-10N - selection. 3. add).

— Syn. 2. collection, gathering, pick. — Ant. 1 rejection.

selec'tion rule', *Physics*. any of several rules des nating allowed transitions between quantum states terms of the quantum numbers associated with tstates.

selective (si lek/tiv), adj. 1. having the function of power of selecting; making a selection. 2. characterized by selection, esp. fastidious selection. 3. of or pertaints to selection. 4. Elect., Radio. having good selectivity. (1615-25; SELECT + -IVE] —selectively, adv. —selectively. 2. discriminating, particular, discerning. selective service.

selective service, compulsory military service: [1919]

Selec'tive Service Sys'tem, the U.S. federal agency that facilitates the mobilization of military forces by requiring the registration of males between the ages of 18 and 26 years. Abbr.: SSS

IPR2015-00740