

Webster's II

New College Dictionary



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The

ploi-dy (ploɪ'deɪ) *n.* [Back-formation < DIPLOIDY and HAPLOIDY.] A multiple of a set of chromosomes.

plonk (plɒŋk, plʌŋk) *v.* & *n.* & *adv.* var. of **PLUNK**.

plop (plɒp) *v.* **plopped**, **plop-ping**, **plops**. [imit.] — *vi.* 1. To fall with a sound like that of a rather heavy object falling into water. 2. To drop or sink heavily <plop onto a couch> — *vt.* To drop or move so as to make a plopping sound. — *n.* A plopping sound or movement. — **plop** *adv.*

plo-sion (plɒ'zhan) *n.* [< EXPLOSION.] 1. The articulation of a plosive sound. 2. The sudden release of occluded air occurring in the articulation of certain stop consonants.

plo-sive (plɒ'sɪv, -zɪv) *adj.* [Fr.] Pronounced with a complete closure and abrupt opening of the oral passage, as the (p) in *top* or (d) in *adorn*. — *n.* A plosive speech sound.

plot (plɒt) *n.* [ME < OE.] 1. a. A small piece of ground, generally used for a particular purpose <a burial plot> b. A measured area of land: LOT. 2. A ground plan, as for a building: DIAGRAM. 3. The outline or plan of action of a narrative or drama. 4. A secret plan to accomplish an illegal or hostile purpose. — *v.* **plot-ted**, **plot-ting**, **plots**. — *vt.* 1. To represent graphically, as on a chart <plot an aircraft's course> 2. To prearrange secretly or deviously <plot a crime> 3. To conceive and arrange the action and incidents of <plot a story> 4. *Math.* a. To locate (points or other figures) on a graph by means of coordinates. b. To draw (a curve) connecting points on a graph. — *vi.* 1. To devise secretly: CONSPIRE. 2. To be located by means of coordinates, as on a chart or with data. — **plot'less** *adj.* — **plot'lessness** *n.* — **plot'ter** *n.*

* **syns:** 1. PLOT, INTRIGUE, STORY *n.* **core meaning:** the series of events and relationships that form the basis of a composition <a novel with a complex plot> 2. PLOT, COLLUSION, CONSPIRACY, INTRIGUE, MACHINATION, SCHEME *n.* **core meaning:** a secret plan to achieve an evil or illegal goal <a plot to steal government secrets>

plot line *n.* A story line.

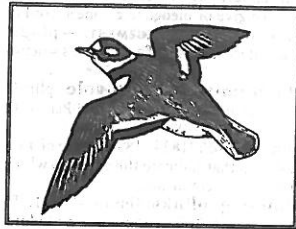
plottage (plɒt'ɪʃ) *n.* The area of land in a plot.

plotting board *n.* Computer Sci. An output device that plots the curves of functions of variables.

plotting table *n.* A plotting board.

plough (plau) *n.* & *v.* Chiefly Brit. var. of **PLOW**.

plow-er (pluɪ'ər, plɒ'vər) *n., pl.* **plowers** — *ers*. [ME < OFr. *plovier* < VLat. **plovarius* < *pluvia*, rain. — see **PLUVIAL**.] 1. Any of various widely distributed wading birds of the family Charadriidae, with rounded bodies, short tails, and short bills. 2. A bird related to or resembling the plover.



plower
The semipalmated plover,
up to 7 1/2 inches long

plow (plau) *n.* [ME < OE *plōg*, plowland.] 1. a. A farm implement having a heavy blade at the end of a beam, usu. hitched to a draft team or motor vehicle and used for breaking up soil and cutting furrows in preparation for sowing. b. A plowlike implement, as a snowplow. 2. **Plow.** The Big Dipper. — *v.* **plowed**, **plow-ing**, **plows**. — *vt.* 1. To break and turn over (earth) with a plow. 2. a. To form (e.g., a furrow) with a plow. b. To make or form with driving force <plowed our way through the mob> 3. To make furrows or indentations in. 4. To cut through (water) <a ship plowing the ocean> — *vi.* 1. To break and turn up earth with a plow. 2. To be capable of being plowed <earth that plows easily> 3. To move or progress with driving force <plowed through the spectators> 4. To proceed with difficulty: **plod** <plowing through paperwork> — **plow back.** To reinvest (e.g., profits) in one's business. — **plow into.** *Informal.* 1. To strike with force. 2. To undertake (e.g., a task) eagerly and vigorously. — **plow under.** 1. To overwhelm. 2. To cause to vanish. — **plow'a-ble** *adj.* — **plow'er** *n.*

plow-boy (plou'boi') *n.* 1. A boy who leads or directs a team of animals in plowing. 2. A country boy.

plow-head (plou'hɛd') *n.* The metal shackle at the leading end of the beam of a plow, used to attach the plow to a tractor or draft animal.

plow-land (plou'lænd') *n.* 1. A unit of land area in medieval England roughly equal to the area capable of being plowed by a team of eight oxen in a single year. 2. Land under cultivation or suitable for cultivation.

plow-man (plou'mæn) *n.* 1. One who plows. 2. a. A farmer. b. A rustic.

plow-share (plou'shɑr') *n.* The cutting blade of a plow.

plow steel *n.* A high-strength steel having a carbon content of 0.5–0.95% and used chiefly to make wire rope.

ploy (plɔɪ) *n.* [Orig. unknown.] An artifice or stratagem to obtain an advantage over one's opponent.

pluck (plʌk) *v.* **plucked**, **pluck-ing**, **plucks**. [ME *plucken* < OE *pluccian*, prob. < VLat. **pluccare* < Lat. *pilus*, hair.] — *vt.* 1. To detach by grasping and pulling abruptly with the fingers: pick <pluck a rose> 2. To pull out the feathers or hair of <pluck one's eyebrows> 3. To give an abrupt pull to: tug at. 4. *Mus.* To sound (the strings of an instrument) by pulling and releasing with the fingers or a plectrum. 5. *Slang.* To swindle or rob. — *vi.* To give an abrupt pull: tug. — *n.* 1. The act of plucking: TUG. 2. Resourceful courage and daring in the face of hardship or adversities: SPIRIT. 3. The heart, liver, windpipe, and lungs of a slaughtered animal. — **pluck'er** *n.*

pluck-y (plʌk'ē) *adj.* — **i-er**, **i-est.** Having or displaying courage or spirited resourcefulness in trying circumstances: BRAVE. — **pluck'i-ly** *adv.* — **pluck'i-ness** *n.*

plug (plʌg) *n.* [Du. < MDu. *plugge*.] 1. An object, as a cork or wad of cloth, used to close a gap or hole. 2. *Elect.* a. A fitting, commonly having two metal prongs for insertion into a fixed socket, used to connect an appliance to a power supply. b. A spark plug. 3. A fireplug. 4. *n.* A flat cake of pressed or twisted tobacco. b. A portion of chewing tobacco. 5. *Geol.* A mass of igneous rock filling the opening or vent of a volcano. 6. *Informal.* A favorable public mention of a product, business, or performance, esp. when spoken over radio or television. 7. *Slang.* Something defective, inferior, or useless, esp. an old, worn-out horse. 8. *Slang.* A gunshot or bullet. 9. *Slang.* A plug hat. — *v.*

plugged, **plug-ging**, **plugs**. — *vt.* 1. To fill (a hole) tightly with or as if with a plug or stopper. 2. To use as a plug <plugged a stopper in the sink> 3. To connect (an electrical appliance) to a socket <plugged in the television> 4. *Slang.* a. To hit with a bullet: shoot. b. To hit with the fist: PUNCH. 5. *Informal.* a. To make favorable public mention of (e.g., a product). b. To publicize (e.g., a song) by performing or playing repeatedly. — *vi.* 1. *Informal.* To work persistently and doggedly at an activity. 2. *Informal.* To work for a particular person or cause <plug for a candidate> 3. *Slang.* To fire bullets. — **plug in.** 1. To function by being connected to an electrical outlet. 2. *Slang.* To be attuned or responsive to. — **plug'ger** *n.*

plug board *n.* 1. A control panel or wiring panel. 2. A removable panel in a computing device that may be rewired at will to sort data by a prescribed pattern.

plug-com-pat-i-ble (plʌg'kəm-pət'ə-bəl) *adj.* Computer Sci. Capable of being connected peripherally without modification.

plug hat *n.* *Slang.* A man's high silk hat.

plug-in (plʌg'in) *adj.* Designed to be plugged in to an electric circuit <a plug-in frying pan>

plug-ug-ly (plʌg'ʌg'li) *n., pl.* — **lies**. [Orig. unknown.] *Slang.* A gangster, esp. one hired to intimidate.

plum (plʌm) *n.* [ME < OE *plūme* < Lat. *prunum* < Gk. *prōnēon*.] 1. a. A shrub or small tree of the genus *Prunus*, bearing smooth-skinned, fleshy, edible fruit with a single hard-shelled seed. b. The fruit of a plum tree. 2. a. Any of several trees bearing plumlike fruit. b. The fruit of such a tree. 3. A raisin when added to a pudding or cake. 4. A sugarplum. 5. A dark purple to deep reddish purple. 6. Something esp. desirable, as a good position. — **plum'like** *adj.*

plum² (plʌm) *adj.* & *adv.* *Informal.* var. of **PLUMB**.

plum-age (plʌm'ɑʃ) *n.* [ME < OFr. < *plume*, *plume* < Lat. *plūma*.] 1. The feathers of a bird. 2. Feathers used as decoration. 3. Elaborate dress: FINERY. — **plum'aged** *adj.*

plu-mate (plʌm'mæt) *adj.* [Lat. *plumatus*, feathered < *plūma*, feather.] Resembling a plum or feather.

plumb (plʌm) *n.* [ME < OFr. *plomme* < Lat. *plumbum*, lead.] 1. A weight suspended from the end of a line, used to determine water depth. 2. A plumb used to test or establish vertical alignment. — *adj.*

1. Exactly vertical. 2. *also* **plumb.** *Informal.* Utter: complete <a plumb idiot> — *adv.* 1. In a vertical or perpendicular line. 2. *also* **plumb.** *Informal.* Completely: utterly <plumb crazy> — *v.*

plumbed, **plumb-ing**, **plumbs**. — *vt.* 1. To test the angle or alignment of with a plumb. 2. To straighten or make perpendicular, as a wall. 3. To determine the depth of: SOUND. 4. To examine or investigate closely <"Shallow ideas are plumbed and discarded" — Gilbert Highet> 5. To seal with lead. — *vi.* To work as a plumber. — **out of (or off) plumb.** Not vertical. — **plumb'a-ble** *adj.*

plum-ba-go (plʌm-bə'gō) *n., pl.* — **gos**. [Lat., lead ore < *plumbum*, lead.] 1. Graphite. 2. A plant of the genus *Plumbago*, as the leadwort.

plumb bob *n.* A usu. conical piece of metal attached to the end of a plumb line.

plumb-er (plʌm'ər) *n.* [ME *plummer* < OFr. *plommier* < LLat. *plumbarius*, lead worker < Lat. *plumbum*, lead.] 1. One whose occupation is installing and repairing pipes and plumbing. 2. *Slang.* One who investigates and tries to stop leaks of sensitive information <"The plumbers pushed the departments to investigate with interviews and polygraph tests" — Richard M. Nixon> — **plumber's helper** *n.* PLUNGER 3.

ā pat ā pay ār care ā father ē pet ē be hw which i pat
i tie ir pier ð pot ð toe ð paw, for oi noise oō took