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*Dedicated to the memory of
Jess Stein*

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ingly, often formally and publicly, to congratulate or honor for something done: to commend a worker for a job well done. TO PRAISE is to speak or write, often in glowing and emotional terms, about one or more persons, actions, plans, etc. to praise someone's courage. 2. 3. authorize, endorse, validate. —Ant. 2, 3. reject.

approved school, (in Britain) a government school for delinquent boys or girls. [1930-35]

ap-prov'er (ə prəv'vər), n. 1. a person who approves. 2. *Old Eng.* a woman according to a felony who confesses his or her guilt and gives evidence against his or her confederates. [1350-1400; ME; see APPROVE, -ER']

ap-prox-i-mate, 1. approximate. 2. approximately.

ap-prox-i-mal (ə prək'sə məl), adj. Anat. near or adjacent. [AP + PROXIMAL]

ap-prox-i-mant (ə prək'sə mənt), n. *Phonet.* 1. an articulation in which one articulator is close to another, but not sufficiently so to form a stop or a fricative. 2. a sound characterized by such an articulation, as (w), (y), (r), (l), or a vowel. [APPROXIMATE] + -ANT]

ap-prox-i-mate (adj. ə prək'sə mit; v. ə prək'sə-māt), adj. u. **-ated**, **-mat-ing**. —adj. 1. near or approaching a certain state, condition, goal, or standard. 2. nearly exact; not perfectly accurate or correct: *The approximate time was 10 o'clock.* 3. near; close together. 4. very similar; nearly identical. —v. 5. to come near to; approach closely to: *to approximate an ideal.* 6. to estimate: *We approximated the distance at three miles.* 7. to simulate; imitate closely: *The motions of the stars can be approximated in a planetarium.* 8. to bring near. —v. 9. to come near in position, character, amount, etc. [1400-50; late ME < LL *approximatus* drawn near to, approached (ptp. of *approximāre*). See AP-, PROXIMATE] —**ap-prox-i-mate-ly**, adv.

ap-prox-i-mation (ə prək'sə mə'shən), n. 1. a guess or estimate: *Ninety-three million miles is an approximation of the distance of the earth from the sun.* 2. nearness in space, position, degree, or relation; proximity; closeness. 3. *Math., Physics.* a result that is not necessarily exact, but is within the limits of accuracy required for a given purpose. [1400-50; late ME *approximatio* (< MF) < ML *approximatio*, s. of *approximāre*. See APPROXIMATE, -ION] —**ap-prox-i-ma-tive**, adj.

appt., 1. appointed. 2. appointed. 3. appointment.

apptd., appointed.

ap-pulse (ə puls'), n. 1. energetic motion toward a point. 2. the act of striking against something. 3. *Astron.* the approach or occurrence of conjunction between two celestial bodies. [1620-30; < L *appulsus* driven to, landed (ptp. of *appellere*), equiv. to *ap-* AP- + *pul-* (var. s. of *pellere* to drive, push) + *-sus*, var. of *-tus* ptp. suffix] —**ap-pul-sive**, adj. —**ap-pul-sive-ly**, adv.

ap-pur-tenance (ə pər'tn əns), n. 1. something subordinate to another, more important thing; adjunct; accessory. 2. *Law.* a right, privilege, or improvement belonging to and passing with a principal property. 3. *apparatuses*, apparatus, instruments. [1350-1400; ME < AP, equiv. to *ap-* AP- + *-purtenance* & belonging; see PURTENANCE]

ap-pur-tenant (ə pər'tn ənt), adj. 1. appertaining or belonging; pertaining. —n. 2. an appurtenance. [1350-1400; ME (see APPURTENANCE, -ANT); r. ME *apertinent* < LL *apertinent* (s. of *apertinēns*, prp. of *apertinēre*). See AP-, PERTINENT]

APR, annual percentage rate. Also, **A.P.R.**

Apr., April.

ap-prax-i-a (ə prak'sē ə, ə prak's-), n. *Pathol.* a disorder of the nervous system characterized by inability to perform purposeful movements, but not accompanied by a loss of sensory function or paralysis. [1885-90; < NL; see A-, PRAXIS, -IA] **ap-prac-tic** (ə prak'tik, ə prak'-), **ap-prax'ic**, adj.

Après-midi d'un Faune, L' (Fr. la pre mè dè don fôn). *See L'Après-midi d'un Faune.*

après moi le déluge (a pre mwə' la də lyzh'), *French.* after me, the deluge (attributed to Louis XV, adapted from *après nous le déluge* "after us the deluge," credited to Madame de Pompadour; said in reference to signs of the approaching Revolution).

Apres-o-line (ə pres'ə lēn'), *Pharm., Trademark.* a brand of hydralazine.

après-ski (ə'prə skē', ə'prā-), n. 1. the period of relaxation that follows skiing; *menus suitable for après-ski.* —adj. 2. pertaining to or suitable for such a time: *après-ski clothes; an après-ski party.* [1950-55; < F, equiv. to *après* after + *ski* ski, skiing]

ap-ri-cot (ə'pri kət', ə'pri-), n. 1. the downy, yellow, sometimes rosy fruit, somewhat resembling a small peach, of the tree *Prunus armeniaca*. 2. the tree itself. 3. a pinkish yellow or yellowish pink. 4. Also called **wild apricot**. Chiefly South Midland U.S. the maypop vine and its fruit; passionfruit. [1545-55; < MF *abricot* < Pg *abricoco* or Sp *albar(d)icoque* < Ar *al* the + *bar-qi-q* < MGk < LL *praecocquum*, for L (*persicum*) *praecox* lit. early-ripening peach, perh. referring to the apricot (see PEACH, PRAECOCIOUS); r. earlier *abrecock* < Pg or Sp; later *p* for MF *b* perh. < L *praecox*]

April (ə'prēl), n. 1. the fourth month of the year, containing 30 days. *Abbr.* Apr. 2. a female given name. (bef. 1150; ME < L *Aprilis* (adj., as modifying *mēnsis* month), prob. based on Etruscan *apru* APRUPTIV < Gk *Aprōditē*; r. ME *Averil* (< OF *avril* < L), in its turn replacing late OE *aprilis* (< L])

CONCISE ETYMOLOGY KEY: <, descended or borrowed from; >, whence, b., blend of, blended; c., cognate with; cf., compare; deriv., derivative; equiv., equivalent; imit., imitative; obl., obsolete; +, combining form; s., stem; sp., spelling; spelled; resp., respelling; respelled; r., re-

A/pril fool, 1. the victim of a practical joke or trick on April Fools' Day. 2. a practical joke or trick played on that day. [1680-90]

A/pril Fools' Day, April 1, a day when practical jokes or tricks are played on unsuspecting people. Also called **All Fools' Day**. [1825-35]

a-pri-or-i (ə'pri ɔr'i, -ɔr'i, ə'prɛ ɔr'ɛ, -ɔr'ɛ, ə'prɛ-ɔr'ɛ, -ɔr'ɛ), 1. from a general law to a particular instance, valid independently of observation. Cf. a **posteriori** (def. 1). 2. existing in the mind prior to and independent of experience, as a faculty or character trait. Cf. a **posteriori** (def. 2). 3. not based on prior study or examination; nonanalytic: *an a priori judgment.* [1645-55; < L lit., from the one before. See A-, PRIOR] —**a-pri-or-i-ty** (ə'pri ɔr'i te, -ɔr'-), n.

a-pri-or-ism (ə'pri ɔr'iz əm, -ɔr'-, ə'prɛ-, ə'prɛ-), n. *Philos.* belief in, or reliance upon, a priori reasoning, arguments, or principles. [1870-75; prob. trans. of D *apriorisme*. See A PRIORI, -ISM] —**a-pri-or-ist**, n. —**a-pri-or-istic** (ə'pri ɔr'is'tik), adj. —**a-pri-or-ist-i-cally**, adv.

ap-ron (ə'prɒn), n. 1. a garment covering part of the front of the body and tied at the waist, for protecting the wearer's clothing: a *kitchen apron*. 2. *Anglican Ch.* a similar garment extending to the knees, worn by bishops, deans, and archdeacons. 3. a metal plate or cover, usually vertical, for a machine, mechanism, artillery piece, etc., for protecting those who operate it. 4. a continuous conveyor belt for bulk materials, consisting of a chain of steel plates. 5. (in a lathe) a part of the carriage holding the clutches and gears moving the tool-holder. 6. a paved or hard-packed area abutting an airfield's buildings and hangars, where planes are parked, loaded, or the like. 7. a broad paved area used for parking cars, at the end of a driveway. 8. *Civ. Eng.* a any device for protecting a surface of earth, as a riverbank, from the action of moving water. b. a platform to receive the water falling over a dam. 9. the part of a stage floor in front of the curtain line. 10. *Furniture.* skirt (def. 6). 11. the outer border of a green of golf course. 12. the part of the floor of a boxing ring that extends outside the ropes. 13. Also called **skirt**, a flat, broad piece of material or sand at the base of a mountain or extending from the edges of a glacier. 14. strip of metal set into masonry and bent down to cover the upper edge of flashing; counterflashing. 15. the open part of a pier for loading and unloading vessels. 16. *Naut.* (in a wooden vessel) a piece reinforcing the stem on the after side and leading down to the deadwood. 17. *Geol.* a deposit of gravel and sand at the base of a mountain or extending from the edges of a glacier. 18. the frill of long hairs on the throat and chest of certain long-haired dogs, as the collie. 19. a structure erected around another structure, as for reinforcement or decoration: a *high fence surrounded by a wire apron buried in the ground.* —v. 20. to put an apron on; furnish with an apron. 21. to surround in the manner of an apron: *The tower surrounded the house.* [1275-1325; 1925-30 for def. 6; 1900-05 for def. 8; ME *napron* (by later misconstruing a *napron* as an *apron*) < MF *naperon*, equiv. to *nape* tablecloth (< L *mappa* napkin; cf. MAP) + *-ron* dim. suffix] —**a-pron-like**, adj.

a/pron piece, (in a staircase) a header receiving the ends of rough strings, carriage pieces, and the joists of landings. Also called **pitching piece**. [1855-60]

a/pron strings, 1. the strings on an apron, used for securing it around one's person. 2. **tie to someone's apron strings**, to make or be dependent on or dominated by someone: *He has never married because he's tied to his mother's apron strings.* [1935-45]

ap-ro-pos (ə'prɒ pɒs), adv. 1. fitting; at the right time; to the purpose; opportunely. 2. *Obs.* by the way. 3. **apropos of**, with reference to; in respect or regard to: *apropos of the preceding statement.* —adj. 4. opportune; pertinent: *apropos remarks.* [1660-70; < F à propos lit., to purpose < L ad propositum. See AD-, PROPOSITUM]

à propos de rien (a prɒ pɒ də ryan'), *French.* apropos of nothing; with reference to nothing in particular.

ap-rotic (ə'prɒ'tik), adj. *Chem.* not containing dissociable hydrogen. [A- + PROT(ON) + -IC]

ap-rawl (ə'prəʊl), adj. moving about in stealthy search; covertly stalking or hunting; prowling (usually used predicatively): *The sudden silence in the jungle gave warning that some huge carnivore was a-rawl.* [A- + PROWL]

A.P.S., 1. American Peace Society. 2. American Philatelic Society. 3. American Philosophical Society. 4. American Physical Society. 5. American Protestant Society.

A.P.S.A., American Political Science Association.

Ap-sar-as (ə'psər əs), n., pl. **-sar-es** (-sar ə siz), 1. *Hindu Myth.* a supernatural female being, either the mistress of a soul in paradise or a succubus. 2. a representation of such a being. (< Skt)

apse (əps), n. 1. *Archit.* a semicircular or polygonal termination or recess in a building, usually vaulted and used esp. at the end of a choir in a church. See **diag.** under **basilica**. 2. *Astron.* an apsis. [1815-25; var. of APSIS] —**ap-sid-al** (ə'psɪ dɪ), adj. —**ap-sid-al-ly**, adv.

apse/line, *Astron.* See **line of apsides**.

ap/sidal mo-tion, *Astron.* the rotation of the major axis of an eccentric orbit in the plane of the orbit. [1955-60]

ap-sid-i-ole (ə'psɪ dɪ ɔl'), n. a small apse, esp. one attached to a larger apse or a transept. [1885-90; < F *apsidole*, equiv. to *abside* arsis (< ML *absid-*, s. of *absis*) + *-ole* < *ovle* < *ole*]

ap-sis (ə'psɪs), n., pl. **-sides** (-sɪ dɛz'). 1. *Astron.* either of two points in an eccentric orbit, one (**higher apsis**) farthest from the center of attraction, the other (**lower apsis**) nearest to it. 2. *Astron.* the center of attraction. 2. Ar-

wheel, arch, vault, orig., fastening, equiv. to *háp(tein)* to fasten + *-sis* -sis]

Ap star (ə'pɛtə), *Astron.* a peculiar A star whose emission spectrum is characterized by abnormally strong lines of certain ionized metals. [1970-75; A (star) + p (abbr. for PECULIAR STAR)]

Ap-su (əp'su), n. an Akkadian god; the consort of Tiamat and the father of the gods.

Ap-syr-tus (əp'sɪr'təs), n. *Class. Myth.* a son of Aëtes, killed by his sister Medea, who, while fleeing with Jason, threw pieces of her brother's body into the sea so that her father, in pursuing her, might be delayed while picking them up.

apt (əpt), adj. 1. inclined; disposed; given; prone: *too apt to slander others.* 2. likely: *Am I apt to find him at home?* 3. unusually intelligent; able to learn quickly and easily: *an apt pupil.* 4. suited to the purpose or occasion; appropriate: *an apt metaphor; a few apt remarks on world peace.* 5. *Archaic.* prepared; ready; willing. [1350-1400; ME (< AF) < L *aptus* fastened, fitted, fitting, appropriate, equiv. to *ap-* fasten, attach + *-tus* ptp. suffix] —**apt-ly**, adv. —**apt-ness**, n. —**Syn.** 1. liable. 2. See **likely**. 3. clever; bright; adaptable; handy; adroit; dexterous; skillful. 4. fitting; meet; germane; felicitous. *APR, PERTINENT, RELEVANT* all refer to something suitable or fitting. *APT* means to the point and particularly appropriate; *an apt comment*. *PERTINENT* means pertaining to the matter in hand; *a pertinent remark*. *RELEVANT* means directly related to and important to the subject; *a relevant opinion*.

—**Usage.** Some usage guides insist that *APT* followed by an infinitive can or should be used to mean only "inclined, disposed": *He is apt to ignore matters he regards as unimportant.* In fact, *APT* is standard in all varieties of speech and writing as a synonym for *likely* in contexts that suggest probability without any implication of a natural disposition toward: *Hostilities are apt to break out if the confrontation is not soon resolved. She is apt to arrive almost any time now.* See also **liable**.

apt., pl. **apts.** apartment.

ap-ter-al (ə'ptɛr əl), adj. *Archit.* 1. (of a classical temple) not having a surrounding colonnade; not peripteral. 2. (of a church) having no aisles. 3. (of a church façade) revealing no aisles. [1825-35; < Gk *apteros*] wingless (a- A- + *-pteros* -PTEROUS + -AL)]

ap-ter-i-um (ə'ptɛr'ɪ əm), n., pl. **-ter-ia** (-tɛr'ɪ ə). *Ornith.* one of the featherless portions of the skin of a bird. Cf. **pterylia**. [1865-70; < NL; see A-, PTER-, -IUM] —**ap-ter-i-al**, adj.

ap-ter-ous (ə'ptɛr əs), adj. 1. *Zool.* wingless, as some insects. 2. *Bot.* without membranous expansions, as a stem. [1765-75; < Gk *apteros* wingless. See A-, PTER-ous]

ap-ter-yg-i-al (ə'ptɛr'ɪ jɪ əl), adj. *Zool.* having no wings, fins, or limbs, as snakes and eels. [1900-05; A- + Gk *pteryg-* (s. of *ptéryx* wing) + -IAL]

ap-ter-y-gote (ə'ptɛr'i gɒt', ə'ptɛr-), adj. belonging or pertaining to the *Apertygota*, a subclass of primitive wingless insects that undergo little or no metamorphosis. Also, **ap-ter-y-gotous** (ə'ptɛr'i gɒt'əs). [*<* NL *Apertygota* name of the subclass, equiv. to a- A- + *Pterygota* < Gk, neut. pl. of *pterygōtās* winged, deriv. of *pteryg-* (s. of *ptéryx*) wing]

ap-ter-yx (ə'ptɛr'ɪ ks), n. kiwi (def. 1). [1805-15; < NL; the genus name, equiv. to Gk a- A- + *-pteryx*, adj. use of *ptéryx* wing]

ap-ti-tude (ə'ptɪ tʊd', -tʊd'), n. 1. capability; ability; innate or acquired capacity for something; talent: *She has a special aptitude for mathematics.* 2. readiness or quickness in learning; intelligence: *He was placed in honors classes because of his general aptitude.* 3. the state or quality of being apt; special fitness. [1400-50; late ME (< MF) < LL *aptitudo*. See **APT**, -I-, -TUD] —**ap-ti-tu-dinal**, adj. —**ap-ti-tu-dinal-ly**, adv.

—**Syn.** 1. predilection, proclivity, bent, gift, faculty. 2. acumen. 3. appropriateness.

ap-ti-tude test, any of various tests given to measure abilities, as manual dexterity, visual acuity, reasoning, or verbal comprehension, and used to assist in the selection of a career. [1920-25]

Ap-u-le-i-us (ə'ju leɪ əs), n. **Lucius**, born A.D. 125?, Roman philosopher and satirist.

Apu-lia (ə'pyʊlɪ ə), n. a department in SE Italy. 3,828,322; 7,442 sq. mi. (19,275 sq. km). *Cap.*: Bari. Italian, **Puglia**. —**Apu-li-an**, adj.

a-pun-ta d'ar-co (ə'pʊn'tə dər'kɒ; It. ə'pʊn'tə dər'kɒ), *Musical.* (of performance of a musical passage for a stringed instrument) with the point of the bow. [*<* It; see AD-, POINT, ARC]

A-pu-re (ə'pʊr'ɛ), n. a river flowing E from W Venezuela to the Orinoco, ab. 500 mi. (805 km) long.

Apu-ri-mac (ə'pʊrɪ mək'), n. a river flowing NW from S Peru to the Ucayali River, ab. 550 mi. (885 km) long.

A-pus (ə'pʊs), n., *gen. Ap-o-dis* (ə'pɒ dis). *Astron.* the Bird of Paradise, a southern constellation between Octans and Triangulum Australe. [*<* NL < Gk *apous* name applied to various swallowlike birds, lit., footless, equiv. to a- A- + *-pous* -footed, adj. deriv. of *poús* foot; cf. -POD]

apx., appendix.

ap-y-rase (ə'pɪ rās', -rāz'), n. *Biochem.* a relatively nonspecific ATPase occurring in plants and molds. [1940-45; a(*denylpyr*(*ophosphat*))ase; see ADENYLPHOSPHATE, -ASE]

ap-ry-ret-ic (ə'pɪ rɛt'ɪk), adj. *Pathol.* free from fever. [1835-45; A- + PYRETIC]