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Second College Edition

The
American
Heritage
Dictionary



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Any of various bell-shaped, ciliated, stalked protozoans of the genus *Vorticella*. [NLat. *Vorticella*, genus name < Lat. *vortex*, vortex.]

vortices (vôr'tî-sēz') *n.* A plural of **vortex**.

vortice (vôr'tî-kôs') *adj.* Vortical.

vortiginous (vôr'tî-jî-nas) *adj.* Vortical. [*<* Lat. *vertigo*, *vertigin-*, a whirling < *vertere*, to turn.]

votary (vô'tā-rē) *n., pl. -ries.* **1.** A person bound by vows to live a life of religious worship or service; monk or nun. **2.** A person fervently devoted to a religion, activity, leader, or ideal. [*<* Lat. *votum*, vow < *vovēre*, to vow.]

Synonyms: *votary, devotee, habitué, fan.* These nouns mean an adherent of a person, cause, or activity. *Votary* and *devotee* imply strong personal commitment to the service of a person or thing, usually in a favorable sense. Both can refer to religious dedication or, by extension, to attachment to a branch of learning, a hobby, or a cultural pursuit. *Habitué* refers to one in regular attendance at a place offering a certain kind of activity. *Fan* is an informal term for an ardent enthusiast or admirer.

vote (vôt) *n.* **1. a.** A formal expression of preference for a candidate for office or for a proposed resolution of an issue.

b. The way by which such a preference is made known, as by a raised hand or a ballot. **2.** The number of votes cast in an election or to resolve an issue: *a heavy vote in his favor.*

3. A group of voters: *the labor vote.* **4.** The result of an election or referendum. **5.** The right to participate as a voter; suffrage. —*v. voted, voting, votes.* —*intr.* To express one's preference by a vote; cast one's vote. —*tr.* **1.** To express one's preference for; endorse by a vote. **2.** To bring into existence or make available by vote: *vote new funds for a program.* **3.** To declare or pronounce by general consent: *voted the play a success.* —*phrasal verbs.* **vote down.** To defeat by casting a negative vote. **vote in.** To elect. **vote out.** To remove from elective office by supporting the opposition. [*<* Lat. *votum*, vow < *vovēre*, to vow.] —**vot'able, vote'able** *adj.* —**vot'er** *n.*

vote getter *n.* **1.** A candidate with abilities and qualities that attract votes in his favor. **2.** A means of drawing votes.

vote-less (vôt'lis) *adj.* Having no vote, esp. denied a political vote.

voting machine *n.* An apparatus for use in polling places that mechanically records and counts votes.

votive (vô'tiv) *adj.* **1.** Given or dedicated in fulfillment of a vow or pledge: *a votive offering.* **2.** Expressing a wish, desire, or vow: *a votive prayer.* [*<* Lat. *votivus* < *votum*, vow.] —**vot'ively** *adv.*

votive Mass *n. Rom. Cath. Ch.* A Mass differing from one prescribed for a certain day in that it is celebrated at the direction of authority, because of special circumstances, or at the decision of the priest.

vouch (vouch) *v. vouched, vouching, vouches.* —*tr.* **1.** To substantiate by supplying evidence; verify. **2. Law.** To summon as a witness to give warranty of title. **3. Archaic.** To cite (an authority, for example) as supporting evidence for one's statements, opinions, or actions. **4. Archaic.** To assert; declare. —*intr.* **1.** To furnish a guarantee; give personal assurance. **2.** To function or serve as a guarantee; furnish supporting evidence. —*n. Obs.* A declaration of opinion; assertion. [*<* ME *vouchen*, to summon to court < OFr. *voucher* < Lat. *vocare*, to call.]

voucher (vou'chər) *n.* **1.** A person who vouches. **2.** A document that serves as proof that the terms of a transaction have been met.

vouch-safe (vouch-sāf', vouch'sāf') *tr.v. -safed, -saf-ing, -safes.* To condescend to grant or bestow (a privilege, for example); deign. [*<* ME *vouchen sauf*, to warrant as safe.] —**vouch-safe'ment** *n.*

vous-soir (vōō-swār') *n.* Any of the wedge-shaped stones that form the curved parts of an arch or vaulted ceiling. [*<* Fr. < OFr. *vossoir* < VLat. **volsorium* < **volsus*, var. of Lat. *volutus*, p.part. of *volvere*, to turn.]

vow (vou) *n.* **1.** An earnest promise or pledge that binds one to perform a specified act or behave in a certain manner, esp. a solemn promise to live and act in accordance with the prescriptions of a religious body: *a nun's vows.* **2.** A formal declaration or assertion. —*v. vowed, vowing, vows.* —*tr.* **1.** To promise or pledge solemnly. **2.** To make a pledge or threat to undertake: *vowing revenge on their persecutors.* **3.** To declare or assert formally. —*intr.* To express a promise or pledge; make a vow. —*idiom.* **take vows.** To enter a religious order. [*<* ME *vowe* < OFr. < Lat. *votum* < *vovēre*, to vow.] —**vow'er** *n.*

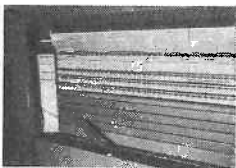
vowel (vou'əl) *n.* **1.** A speech sound created by the relatively free passage of breath through the larynx and oral cavity, usually forming the most prominent and central sound of a syllable. **2.** A letter that represents a vowel, as *a, e, i, o, u*, and sometimes *y* in the English alphabet. [*<* ME *vowelle* < OFr. *vowel* < Lat. *vocalis*, sounding < *vox*, voice.]

vowel fracture *n. Ling.* Breaking.

vowel-ize (vou'ə-līz') *tr.v. -ized, -iz-ing, -izes.* To provide



votary
Votary of Diana



voting machine

vox angelica (vöks' än-jël'î-kə) *n.* Voix céleste. [NLat., angelic voice.]

vox humana (vöks' hyōō-mā'nā, -mā'-) *n.* An organ reed stop that produces tones imitative of the human voice. [*<* Lat., human voice.]

vox populi (vöks' pöp'yə-lī', -lē) *n.* Popular opinion or sentiment. [*<* Lat., voice of the people.]

voyage (voi'ij) *n.* **1.** A long journey, usually to a foreign or distant land, esp. a journey across an open sea or ocean.

2. A record or account of a journey of exploration or discovery. —*v. -aged, -ag-ing, -ages.* —*intr.* To make a voyage. —*tr.* To sail across; traverse. [*<* ME < OFr. *veyage* < Lat. *viaticum*, provisions for a journey < *viaticus*, of a journey < *via*, road.] —**voy'ag'er** *n.*

voyageur (voi'ə-zhūr', vwā'yā-) *n., pl. -geurs (-zhūr').* A woodsman, boatman, or guide, esp. one employed by fur companies to transport furs and supplies between remote stations in the U.S. and Canadian northwest. [*<* Fr., traveler < *voyage*, journey < OFr. *veyage*. —see VOYAGE.]

voyeur (voi-yūr') *n.* A person who derives sexual gratification from observing the sex organs or sexual acts of others, esp. from a secret vantage point. [*<* Fr. < OFr., one who sees < *voir*, to see < Lat. *vidēre*, to see.] —**voyeur'ism** *n.* —**voyeur'istic** (voi'yə-ris'tik) *adj.* —**voyeur'istic-ly** *adv.*

V-participle (vē'pār'tî-kəl) *n.* Any of several subatomic particles with half-lives in the range of 10^{10} to 10^{-6} second. [*<* From the shape of the track left by its decay product in a cloud chamber.]

vrouw or **vrow** (frou, frō) *n.* A Dutch woman. [*<* Du., woman < MDu. *vrouwe*.]

V-shaped (vē'shāpt') *adj.* Having the shape of the letter V.

V sign *n.* A symbol of victory formed by holding the raised index and middle fingers in the shape of a V.

VT fuze (vē'tē') *n.* A proximity fuze. [*<* (ARABLE) T(IME) FUZE.]

Vulcan (vül'kən) *n. Rom. Myth.* The god of fire and craftsmanship, esp. metalworking, identified with the Greek god Hephaestus. [*<* Lat. *Vulcanus, Volcanus*.]

vulcanian (vül-kā'nē-ən) *adj.* **1. Geol.** Of, pertaining to, or from a volcano or volcanic eruption. **2. Vulcanian. a.** Of or pertaining to the god Vulcan. **b.** Of or pertaining to craftsmanship or metalworking.

vulcanism (vül'kə-nīz'əm) *n.* Variant of **volcanism**.

vulcanite (vül'kə-nīt') *n.* A hard rubber produced by vulcanization.

vulcanize (vül'kə-nīz') *tr.v. -nized, -niz-ing, -nizes.* To improve the strength, resiliency, and freedom from stickiness and odor of (rubber, for example) by combining with sulfur or other additives in the presence of heat and pressure. [*<* VULCAN.] —**vul'caniz'able** *adj.* —**vul'caniz'a'tion** *n.* —**vul'caniz'er** *n.*

vulcanology (vül'kə-nōl'ə-jē) *n.* Variant of **volcanology**.

vulgar (vül'gər) *adj.* **1.** Of or associated with the great masses of people as distinguished from the educated or cultivated classes; common. **2.** Spoken by or expressed in language spoken by the common people; vernacular.

3. a. Deficient in taste, delicacy, or refinement. **b.** Ill-bred; boorish. **c.** Ostentatious in appearance or quality; pretentious: *a vulgar display of wealth.* **4.** Obscene or indecent; lewd: *a vulgar joke.* [*<* ME < Lat. *vulgaris* < *vulgus*, the common people.] —**vul'garly** *adv.* —**vul'gar-ness** *n.*

vulgarian (vül-gär'ē-ən) *n.* A vulgar person, esp. one who makes a conspicuous display of his money.

vulgarism (vül'gə-rīz'əm) *n.* **1.** Vulgarity. **2. a.** A vulgar word or phrase. **b.** A word, phrase, or manner of expression used mainly by uncultivated people.

vulgar-ity (vül-gär'ī-tē) *n., pl. -ities.* **1.** The condition or quality of being vulgar. **2.** Something, as an act or expression, that offends good taste or propriety.

vulgarize (vül'gə-rīz') *tr.v. -ized, -iz-ing, -izes.* **1.** To make vulgar; debase. **2.** To popularize. —**vul'gariz'a'tion** *n.* —**vul'gariz'er** *n.*

Vulgar Latin *n.* The common speech of the ancient Romans, which is distinguished from standard literary Latin and is the ancestor of the Romance languages.

vulgate (vül'gāt', -gīt) *n.* **1.** The common speech of a people; vernacular. **2.** A widely accepted text or version of a work. **3. Vulgate.** The Latin translation of the Bible made by Saint Jerome at the end of the 4th century A.D., now used in a revised form as the Roman Catholic authorized version. [*<* Lat. *vulgatus*, common < *vulgare*, to make known to all < *vulgus*, the common people.]

vulnerable (vül'nər-ə-bəl) *adj.* **1.** Susceptible to physical injury. **2.** Susceptible to attack: *"We are vulnerable both by water and land, without either fleet or army"* (Alexander Hamilton). **3. a.** Liable to censure or criticism; assailable. **b.** Liable to succumb to persuasion or temptation. **4.** In a position to receive greater penalties or bonuses in the game of bridge. Used of the partners of a team that has won one game of a rubber. [*<* LLat. *vulnerabilis* < Lat. *vulnerare*, to wound < *vulnus*, wound.] —**vul'ner-a-bil'ity, vul'ner-a-ble'**