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bombardment with atomic weapons. —**at·om·i·za·tion** (-i-zā'shən) *n.*

at·om·iz·er (ăt'ă-mī'zər) *n.* A device for converting a substance, especially a perfume or medicine, to a fine spray.

atom smasher *n.* See **accelerator** (sense 3).

at·o·my¹ (ăt'ă-mē) *n., pl. -mies.* Archaic. 1. A tiny particle; a mote. 2. A tiny being. [From Latin *atomī*, pl. of *atomus*, atom. See **ATOM**.]

at·o·my² (ăt'ă-mē) *n., pl. -mies.* Archaic. A gaunt person; a skeleton. [From an *atomy*, respelling of **ANATOMY**.]

A·ton also **A·ten** (ăt'n) *n.* **Mythology.** An Egyptian god of the sun, regarded during the reign of Akhenaton as the only god.

at·o·nal (ă-tō'nəl) *adj.* **Music.** Lacking a tonal center or key; characterized by atonality. —**at·o·nal·ly** *adv.*

at·o·nal·ism (ă-tō'nă-līz'əm) *n.* **Music.** Atonal composition or the theory of atonal composition. —**at·o·nal·ist** *adj. & n.* —**at·o·nal·is·tic** *adj.*

at·o·nal·i·ty (ăt'tō-năl'i-tē) *n., pl. -ties.* **Music.** The absence of a tonal center and of harmonies derived from a diatonic scale corresponding to such a center; lack of tonality.

at·one (ă-tōn') *v.* **at·oned, at·on·ing, at·ones.** —*intr.* 1. To make amends, as for a sin or fault: *These crimes must be atoned for.* 2. Archaic. To agree. —*tr.* 1. To expiate. 2. Archaic. To conciliate; appease: "So heaven, atoned, shall dying Greece restore" (Alexander Pope). 3. Obsolete. To reconcile or harmonize. [Middle English *atonen*, to be reconciled, from *at one*, in agreement: *at*, at; see **AT**¹ + *one*, one; see **ONE**.] —**at·on·a·ble, at·one·a·ble** *adj.* —**at·on·er** *n.*

at·one·ment (ăt'tōn'mənt) *n.* 1. Amends or reparation made for an injury or wrong; expiation. 2. **a. Theology.** Reconciliation or an instance of reconciliation between God and human beings. **b. Atonement.** The redemptive life and death of Jesus. **c. Atonement.** The reconciliation of God and human beings brought about by Jesus. 3. **Christian Science.** The radical obedience and purification, exemplified in the life of Jesus, by which humanity finds oneness with God. 4. Obsolete. Reconciliation; concord.

at·on·ic (ăt'tōn'ik) *adj.* 1. Not accented: *an atonic syllable.* 2. **Pathology.** Relating to, caused by, or exhibiting lack of muscle tone. —**atonic** *n.* A word, syllable, or sound that is unaccented. [From Greek *atonos*. See **ATONY**.] —**at·o·nic·i·ty** (ăt'ă-nis'i-tē,ăt'n-is-) *n.*

at·o·ny (ăt'ă-nē,ăt'n-ē) *n.* 1. Lack of normal muscle tone. 2. Lack of accent or stress. [Late Latin *atonia*, from Greek, from *atonos*, slack: *a-*, without; see **A**⁻¹ + *tonos*, stretching, tone; see **TONE**.]

at·op (ă-tōp') *adv.* To, on, or at the top. —**atop** *prep.* On top of. —**at·op** *adj.*

at·op·ic (ă-tōp'ik) *adj.* Of, relating to, or caused by a hereditary predisposition toward the development of certain hypersensitivity reactions, such as hay fever, asthma, or chronic urticaria, upon exposure to specific antigens: *atopic dermatitis*. [From Greek *atopia*, unusualness, from *atopos*, out of the way: *a-*, not; see **A**⁻¹ + *topos*, place.] —**at·o·py** (ăt'ă-pē) *n.*

—**at·or** *suff.* One that acts in a specified manner: *radiator*. [Latin *-ator*: *-ā-*, stem vowel of verbs in *-āre* + *-tor*, agent *n.* suff. (later reanalyzed as *-atus*, *-ate* + *-or*, *-or*.)]

—**at·ory** *suff.* 1. **a.** Of or relating to: *perspiratory*. **b.** Tending to: *amendatory*. 2. One that is connected with: *reformatory*. [From Latin *-ātorius* and *-ātorium*, both from *-ator*, *-ator*.]

at·ox·ic (ă-tōk'sik) *adj.* Not poisonous or toxic.

ATP (ăt'tē'pē) *n.* An adenosine-derived nucleotide, C₁₀H₁₆N₅O₁₃P₃, that supplies large amounts of energy to cells for various biochemical processes, including muscle contraction and sugar metabolism, through its hydrolysis to ADP. [A(DENOSINE) T(RI)P(HOSPHATE).]

ATP·ase (ăt'tē-pē'ās, -āz) *n.* An enzyme that catalyzes the hydrolysis of ATP; adenosine triphosphatase.

at·ra·bil·ious (ăt'ra-bil'yəs) also **at·ra·bil·i·ar** (-bil'ē-ər) *adj.* 1. Inclined to melancholy. 2. Having a peevish disposition; surly. [From Latin *ātra bilis*, black bile (translation of Greek *melankhōlia*; see **MELANCHOLY**): *ātra*, black; see **āter-** in Appendix + *bilis*, bile.] —**at·ra·bil·i·ous·ness** *n.*

at·trem·ble (ă-trēm'bəl) *adj.* Being in a state of shaking or trembling, as from fear or excitement.

at·tre·sia (ă-trē'zha, -zhē-ə) *n.* 1. The absence or closure of a normal body orifice or tubular passage such as the anus, intestine, or external ear canal. 2. The degeneration and resorption of one or more ovarian follicles before a state of maturity has been reached. [New Latin: Greek *a-*, not, without; see **A**⁻¹ + *trēsis*, perforation, orifice; see **TERO**¹ in Appendix.] —**at·tre·sic** (-zik, -sik) *adj.*

A·treus (ăt'trōōs',ăt'trē-əs) *n.* **Greek Mythology.** A king of Mycenae, brother of Thyestes and father of Agamemnon and Menelaus.

at·tri·a (ăt'trē-ə) *n.* A plural of **atrium**.

atrial na·tri·u·ret·ic factor (năt'trē-yōō-rēt'ik) *n.* **Abbr. ANF** A hormonal substance produced by the right atrium of the heart that stimulates the excretion of sodium and water by the kidneys and helps regulate blood pressure. [ATRIAL + *natrium*, sodium (from **NATHOS**) + *uretic* + **FACTOR**.]

at·tri·o·ven·tric·u·lar (ăt'trē-ō-vēn'trik'yū-lər) *adj.* Of

atrioventricular node *n.* A small mass of specialized cardiac muscle fibers, located in the wall of the right atrium of the heart, that receives heartbeat impulses from the sinoatrial node and directs them to the walls of the ventricles. Also called **AV node**.

at·trip (ă-trīp') *adj.* **Nautical.** Just clear of the bottom. Used of an anchor.

at·tri·um (ăt'trē-əm) *n., pl. at·tri·a (ăt'trē-ə) or **-ums.*** 1. **Architecture.** A rectangular court, as: **a.** A usually skylighted central area, often containing plants, in some modern buildings, especially of a public or commercial nature. **b.** The open area in the center of an ancient Roman house. **c.** The forecourt of a building, such as an early Christian church, enclosed on three or four sides with porticoes. 2. **Anatomy.** A bodily cavity or chamber, especially either of the upper chambers of the heart that receives blood from the veins and forces it into a ventricle. In this sense, also called *auricle*. [Latin *atrium*. See **āter-** in Appendix.] —**at·tri·al** *adj.*

at·tro·cious (ă-trō'shəs) *adj.* 1. Extremely evil or cruel; monstrous: *an atrocious crime*. See Synonyms at **outrageous**. 2. Exceptionally bad; abominable: *atrocious decor; atrocious behavior*. [From Latin *atrox*, *atroc*, frightful, cruel. See **āter-** in Appendix.] —**at·tro·cious·ly** *adv.* —**at·tro·cious·ness** *n.*

at·tro·ci·ty (ă-trōs'i-tē) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. Appalling or atrocious condition, quality, or behavior; monstrosity. 2. **a.** An appalling or atrocious action, situation, or object. **b.** An act of cruelty and violence inflicted by an enemy armed force on civilians or prisoners: *wartime atrocities*.

at·ro·phy (ăt'ra-fē) *n., pl. -phies.* 1. **Pathology.** A wasting or decrease in size of a bodily organ, tissue, or part owing to disease, injury, or lack of use: *muscular atrophy of a person affected with paralysis*. 2. A wasting away, deterioration, or diminution: *intellectual atrophy*. —**at·ro·phy** *v.* —**phied, -phy·ing, -phies.** —*tr.* To cause to wither or deteriorate; affect with atrophy. —*intr.* To waste away; wither or deteriorate. [Late Latin *atrophia*, from Greek, from *atrophos*, ill-nourished: *a-*, without; see **A**⁻¹ + *trophē*, food.] —**at·roph·ic** (ă-trōf'ik) *adj.*

at·ro·pine (ăt'ra-pēn', -pīn) also **at·ro·pin** (-pīn) *n.* A poisonous, bitter, crystalline alkaloid, C₁₇H₂₃NO₃, obtained from belladonna and other related plants. It is used to dilate the pupils of the eyes and as an antispasmodic. [From New Latin *Atropa*, genus name of belladonna, from Greek *atropos*, unchangeable. See **ATROPOS**.]

At·ro·pos (ăt'ra-pōs', -pās) *n.* **Greek Mythology.** One of the three Fates, the cutter of the thread of destiny. [Greek, from *atropos*, inexorable: *a-*, not; see **A**⁻¹ + *tropos*, changeable; see **TROPOUS**.]

At·si·na (ăt-sē'nə) *n., pl. Atsina* or **-nas.** 1. **a.** A Native American people formerly inhabiting the plains of northern Montana and southern Saskatchewan, with a present-day population in north central Montana. **b.** A member of this people. 2. The Algonquian language of the Atsina, dialectally related to Arapaho. Also called *Gros Ventre*.

att. *abbr.* 1. Attached. 2. Attention. 3. Law. Attorney.

at·tach (ă-tăch') *v.* —**tached, -tach·ing, -tach·es.** —*tr.* 1. To fasten, secure, or join. 2. To connect as an adjunct or associated condition or part: *Many major issues are attached to this legislation. They gained influence by attaching themselves to prominent city institutions.* 3. To affix or append; add: *We attached several riders to the document.* 4. To ascribe or assign: *attached no significance to the threat.* 5. To bind by emotional ties, as of affection or loyalty: *I am attached to my family.* 6. To assign (personnel) to a military unit on a temporary basis. 7. **Law.** To seize (persons or property) by legal writ. —*intr.* To adhere, belong, or relate: *Very little prestige attaches to this position.* [Middle English *attachen*, from Old French *attachier*, alteration of *estacheier*, from *estache*, stake, of Germanic origin.] —**at·tach·a·ble** *adj.* —**at·tach·er** *n.*

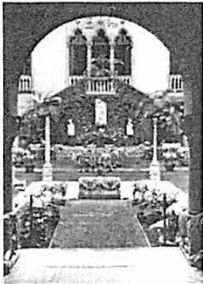
at·ta·ché (ăt'ă-shā',ăt-tā-) *n.* 1. A person officially assigned to the staff of a diplomatic mission to serve in a particular capacity: *a cultural attaché; a military attaché*. 2. An attaché case. [French, from past participle of *attacher*, to attach. See **ATTACH**.]

attaché case *n.* A slim briefcase with flat, rigid sides, hinges, and usually a lock.

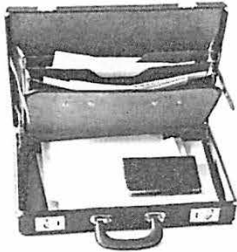
at·tached (ă-tăcht') *adj.* 1. **Abbr. att.** **Architecture.** Joined to or by a wall, especially by sharing a wall with another building; not freestanding: *a block of attached houses*. 2. **Biology.** Living in a permanently fixed state in the adult stage, as the barnacle.

at·tach·ment (ă-tăch'mənt) *n.* 1. The act of attaching or the condition of being attached. 2. Something, such as a tie, band, or fastener, that attaches one thing to another. 3. A bond, as of affection or loyalty; fond regard. 4. A supplementary part; an accessory. See Synonyms at **appendage**. 5. **Law.** **a.** Legal seizure of property or a person. **b.** The writ ordering such a seizure.

at·tack (ă-tăk') *v.* —**tacked, -tack·ing, -tacks.** —*tr.* 1. To set upon with violent force. 2. To criticize strongly or in a hostile manner. 3. To start work on with purpose and vigor: *attack a problem*. 4. To begin to affect harmfully: *The disease had already attacked the central nervous system.* —*intr.* To make an attack; launch an assault: *The enemy attacked during the night.* —**at·tack** *n.* 1. The act or an instance of attacking; an assault. 2. An expression of strong criticism; hostile comment: *vicious attacks in all the newspapers*. 3. **Sports.** **a.** An offensive action in a sport



atrium
Isabella Stewart Gardner
Museum, Boston



attaché case

en·crust·a·tion (èn'krüs-tā'shən) n. Variant of incrustation.

en·crypt (èn-kript) tr.v. -crypt-ed, -crypt-ing, -crypts. 1. To put into code or cipher. 2. Computer Science. To scramble access codes to (computerized information) so as to prevent unauthorized access. [EN-1 + (DE)CRYPT.] —en·crypt'ion n.

en·cum·ber (èn-kùm'ber) tr.v. -bered, -ber-ing, -bers. 1. To put a heavy load on; burden: a hiker who was encumbered with a heavy pack; a life that has always been encumbered with responsibilities. 2. To hinder or impede the action or performance of: restrictions that encumber police work. 3. To burden with legal or financial obligations: an estate that is encumbered with debts. [Middle English encumbren, from Old French encombrer, to block up: en-, in; see EN-1 + combre, hindrance (from Gaulish *comboros).]

en·cum·brance (èn-kùm'brəns) n. 1. One that encumbers; a burden or impediment. 2. Law. A lien or claim on property.

en·cum·branc·er (èn-kùm'brən-sər) n. Law. One that holds an encumbrance.

ency. abbr. Encyclopedia.

-ency suff. Condition or quality: complacency. [Middle English, variant of -ence, -ence.]

encyc. abbr. Encyclopedia.

encycl. abbr. Encyclopedia.

en·cyc·li·cal (èn-sik'li-kəl) adj. Intended for general or wide circulation. —encyclical n. Roman Catholic Church. A papal letter addressed to the bishops of the Church or to the hierarchy of a particular country. [From Late Latin encyclicus, circular, from Greek enkuklios : en-, in; see EN-2 + kuklos, circle; see k'e'l-1 in Appendix.]

en·cy·clo·pe·di·a (èn-sī'klā-pē'dē-ə) n. Abbr. encyc., encycl., ency. A comprehensive reference work containing articles on a wide range of subjects or on numerous aspects of a particular field, usually arranged alphabetically. [Medieval Latin encyclopaedia, general education course, from alteration of Greek enkuklios paideia, general education : enkuklios, circular, general; see ENCYCLICAL + paideia, education (from pais, paid-, child; see pau- in Appendix.)]

WORD HISTORY: The word encyclopedia, which to us usually means a large set of books, descends from a phrase that involved coming to grips with the contents of such books. The Greek phrase is enkuklios paideia, made up of enkuklios, "cyclical, periodic, ordinary," and paideia, "education," and meaning "general education, literally the arts and sciences that a person should study to be liberally educated." Copyists of Latin manuscripts took this phrase to be the Greek word enkuklopaedia, with the same meaning, and this spurious Greek word became the New Latin word encyclopaedia, coming into English with the sense "general course of instruction," first recorded in 1531. In New Latin the word was chosen as the title of a reference work covering all knowledge. The first such use in English is recorded in 1644.

en·cy·clo·pe·dic (èn-sī'klā-pē'dik) adj. 1. Of, relating to, or characteristic of an encyclopedia. 2. Embracing many subjects; comprehensive: "an ignorance almost as encyclopedic as his erudition" (William James). —en·cy·clo·pe·di·cal·ly adv.

en·cy·clo·pe·dism (èn-sī'klā-pē'diz'əm) n. Encyclopedic learning.

en·cy·clo·pe·dist (èn-sī'klā-pē'dist) n. 1. A person who writes for or compiles an encyclopedia. 2. Encyclopedist. One of the writers of the French Encyclopédie (1751–1772), including its editors, Diderot and d'Alembert.

en·cyst (èn-sist) v. -cyst-ed, -cyst-ing, -cysts. —tr. To enclose in or as if in a cyst. —intr. To take the form of or become enclosed in a cyst. —en·cyst'ment, en·cys'ta'tion n.

end (ënd) n. 1. Either extremity of something that has length: the end of the pier. 2. The outside or extreme edge or physical limit; a boundary: the end of town. 3. The point in time when an action, an event, or a phenomenon ceases or is completed; the conclusion: the end of the day. 4. A result; an outcome. 5. Something toward which one strives; a goal. See Synonyms at intention. 6. The termination of life or existence; death: "A man awaits his end/Dreading and hoping all" (William Butler Yeats). 7. The ultimate extent; the very limit: the end of one's patience. 8. Slang. The very best; the ultimate: This pizza's the end. 9. A remainder; a remnant. 10. a. A share of a responsibility or obligation: your end of the bargain. b. A particular area of responsibility: in charge of the business end of the campaign. 11. Football. a. Either of the players in the outermost position on the line of scrimmage. b. The position played by such a player. —end v. —end-ed, end-ing, ends. —tr. 1. To bring to a conclusion. 2. To form the last or concluding part of: the song that ended the performance. 3. To destroy: ended our hopes. —intr. 1. To come to a finish; cease. 2. To die. —idioms. in the end. Eventually; ultimately: All will turn out well in the end. no end. A great deal: She had no end of stories to tell. [Middle English ende, from Old English. See ant- in Appendix.]

end- pref. Variant of endo-.

en·da·moe·ba or en·da·me·ba (èn'dā-mē'ba) n. Vari-

SYNONYMS: endanger, hazard, imperil, jeopardize, risk. The central meaning shared by these verbs is "to subject to danger, loss, or destruction": driving that endangers passengers' lives; hazarded his well-being by constant smoking; a forest imperiled by acid rain; strikes that jeopardized the future of the business; risking her financial security by buying speculative stocks.

en·dan·gered (èn-dān'jərd) adj. Faced with the danger of extinction: an endangered species; an endangered culture.

end·arch (èn'dārk') adj. Botany. Of or relating to a xylem whose early development is toward the center. [END(O)- + Greek arkhē, beginning (from arkhein, to begin, rule).]

end·ar·te·rec·to·my (èn'dār-tā-rék'tō-mē) n., pl. -mies. Surgical excision of the inner lining of an artery that is clogged with atherosclerotic buildup. [New Latin endarterium, inner lining of an artery (ENDO- + arterium, from Latin artēria; see ARTERY) + -ECTOMY.]

end·ar·te·ri·tis (èn'dār-tā-rī'tis) n. Inflammation of the inner lining of an artery. [New Latin endarterium, inner lining of an artery; see ENDARTERECTOMY + -ITIS.]

end·brain (ënd'brān') n. See telencephalon.

en·dear (èn-dīr') tr.v. -deared, -dear-ing, -dears. To make beloved or very sympathetic: a couple whose kindness endeared them to friends.

en·dear·ing (èn-dīr'ing) adj. Inspiring affection or warm sympathy: the endearing charm of a little child. —en·dear'-ing·ly adv.

en·dear·ment (èn-dīr'mənt) n. 1. The act of endearing. 2. An expression of affection, such as a caress.

en·deav·or (èn-dēv'ər) n. 1. A conscientious or concerted effort toward an end; an earnest attempt. 2. Purposeful or industrious activity; enterprise. See Synonyms at effort. —endeavor v. -ored, -or-ing, -ors. —tr. To attempt (fulfillment of a responsibility or an obligation, for example) by employment or expenditure of effort: endeavored to improve the quality of life in the inner city. —intr. To work with a set or specified goal or purpose. [Middle English endeavour, from endeveren, to make an effort, from (putten) in dever, (to put oneself) in duty, make it one's duty : in, in; see IN-1 + dever, duty (from Old French devoir, devoir, duty; see DEVOIR).] —en·deav'or·er n.

en·deav·our (èn-dēv'ər) n. & v. Chiefly British. Variant of endeavor.

En·de·cott also En·di·cott (èn'dī-kət, -köt'). John. 1588?–1665. English-born American colonial administrator who was a founder of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

en·dem·ic (èn-dēm'ik) adj. 1. Prevalent in or peculiar to a particular locality, region, or people: diseases endemic to the tropics. See Synonyms at native. 2. Ecology. Native to or confined to a certain region. —endemic n. Ecology. An endemic plant or animal. [From Greek endēmos : en-, in; see EN-2 + dēmos, people; see dā- in Appendix.] —en·dem'i·cal·ly adv. —en·dem'ism n.

En·der·by Land (èn'dər-bé). A region of Antarctica between Queen Maud Land and Wilkes Land. First explored in 1831 and 1832, it is claimed by Australia.

end·er·gon·ic (èn'dər-gŏn'ik) adj. Requiring energy: an endergonic chemical reaction. [END(O)- + Greek ergon, work; see werg- in Appendix + -IC.]

end·er·mic (èn-dər'mik) adj. Acting medicinally by absorption through the skin. —en·der'mi·cal·ly adv.

En·ders (èn'dərz), John Franklin. 1897–1985. American bacteriologist. He shared a 1954 Nobel Prize for work on the cultivation of the polio virus.

end·game also end game (ënd'gām') n. Games. 1. The final stage of a chess game after most of the pieces have been removed from the board. 2. The final stage of an extended process or course of events: the diplomatic endgame that led to the treaty.

En·di·cott (èn'dī-kət, -köt'), John. See John Endecott.

end·ing (ënd'ing) n. 1. A conclusion or termination. 2. A concluding part; a finale: a happy ending. 3. Grammar. The final morpheme added to a word base to make an inflectional form, such as -ed in walked.

en·dive (ënd'div', òn'dēv') n. 1. An Indian plant (Cichorium endivia) cultivated for its crown of crisp, succulent leaves used in salads. Also called frisée. 2. A variety of the common chicory Cichorium intybus cultivated to produce a narrow, pointed cluster of whitish leaves used in salads. Also called witloof. [Middle English, from Old French, from Medieval Latin endivia, from Medieval Greek entubia, pl. diminutive of Greek entubon, perhaps from Egyptian tybi, January (because the plant grows in this month).]

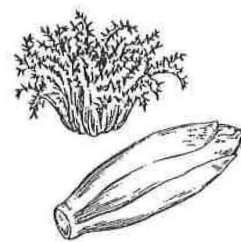
end leaf n. See endpaper.

end·less (ënd'līs) adj. 1. Being or seeming to be without an end or a limit; boundless: an endless universe; an endless conversation. 2. Formed with the ends joined; continuous: an endless chain. —end'less·ly adv. —end'less·ness n.

end line n. Sports. A line perpendicular to the sidelines that marks an end boundary of a playing field or court.

end·long (ënd'lŏng', -lŏng') adv. Archaic. Lengthwise.

end man n. 1. The person at the end of a line or row. 2. The



endive
Top: Curly endive
Bottom: Belgian endive

Table with 2 columns: a pat, oi boy; a pay, ou out; etc.

Stress marks: / (primary); / (secondary)

Latin *subscribere* : sub-, sub- + *scribere*, to write; see *skribh-* in Appendix.] — **sub-scriber** *n.*

sub-script (süb'skríp't) *n.* A distinguishing character or symbol written directly beneath or next to and slightly below a letter or number. — **subscript** *adj.* Written beneath. [From Latin *subscriptus*, past participle of *subscribere*, to subscribe. See *SUBSCRIBE*.]

sub-scrip-tion (süb-skríp'shən) *n.* **Abbr. subs.** 1. A purchase made by signed order, as for a periodical for a specified period of time or for a series of performances. 2. Acceptance, as of articles of faith, demonstrated by the signing of one's name. 3. **a.** The raising of money from subscribers. **b.** A sum of money so raised. 4. The signing of one's name, as to a document. 5. Something subscribed. [Middle English *subscripcion*, from Old French *subscriptio*, from Latin *subscriptio*, *subscriptiōn*, something written underneath, from *subscriptus*, past participle of *subscribere*, to subscribe. See *SUBSCRIBE*.] — **sub-scrip-tive** *adj.* — **sub-scrip-tive-ly** *adv.*

sub-se-quence (süb'si-kwēns', -kwəns) *n.* 1. Something that is subsequent; a sequel. 2. The fact or quality of being subsequent. 3. (-sē'kwəns). **Mathematics.** A sequence that is contained in another sequence.

sub-se-quent (süb'si-kwənt', -kwənt) *adj.* Following in time or order; succeeding. [Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *subsequens*, *subsequent-*, present participle of *subsequi*, to follow close after : *sub-*, close after; see *SUB-* + *sequi*, to follow; see *sek**.1 in Appendix.] — **sub-se-quent-ly** *adv.*

sub-se-re (süb'si'rē) *n.* **Ecology.** A secondary series of ecological communities beginning after succession has been interrupted by fire, grazing, agriculture, or another destructive agent.

sub-serve (süb-sürv') *tr.v.* -served, -serv-ing, -serves. To serve to promote (an end); be useful to. [Latin *subservire* : *sub-*, *sub-* + *servire*, to serve; see *SERVE*.]

sub-ser-vi-ent (süb-sür'vĕ-ənt) *adj.* 1. Subordinate in capacity or function. 2. Obsequious; servile. 3. Useful as a means or an instrument; serving to promote an end. [Latin *subserviens*, *subservient-*, present participle of *subservire*, to subservise. See *SUBSERVIRE*.] — **sub-ser-vi-ence**, **sub-ser-vi-en-cy** *n.* — **sub-ser-vi-ent-ly** *adv.*

sub-set (süb'sĕt') *n.* A set contained within a set.

sub-shell (süb'shĕl') *n.* One or more orbitals in the electron shell of an atom.

sub-shrub (süb'shrüb') *n.* 1. An herb having a woody lower stem. 2. A low shrub; an undershrub.

sub-side (süb-sid') *intr.v.* -sid-ed, -sid-ing, -sides. 1. To sink to a lower or normal level. 2. To sink or settle down, as into a sofa. 3. To sink to the bottom, as a sediment. 4. To become less agitated or active; abate. See *Synonyms at decrease*. [Latin *subsidere* : *sub-*, *sub-* + *sidere*, to settle; see *sed-* in Appendix.] — **sub-si-dence** (süb-sid'ns, süb'st-dns) *n.*

sub-sid-i-ar-y (süb-sid'ĕ-ĕr'ĕ) *adj.* 1. Serving to assist or supplement; auxiliary. 2. Secondary in importance; subordinate. 3. Of, relating to, or of the nature of a subsidy. — **subsidiary** *n.*, *pl. -ar-ies*. 1. One that is subsidiary to another. 2. A subsidiary company. 3. **Music.** A theme subordinate to a main theme or subject. [Latin *subsidiarius*, from *subsidium*, support. See *SUBSIDIV*.] — **sub-sid-i-ar-i-ly** (-ĕr'ĕ-ĕ) *adv.*

subsidiary cell *n.* A plant epidermal cell that is associated with guard cells and differs morphologically from other epidermal cells. Also called *accessory cell*.

subsidiary company *n.* A company having more than half of its stock owned by another company.

sub-si-dize (süb'si-diz') *tr.v.* -dized, -diz-ing, -diz-es. 1. To assist or support with a subsidy. 2. To secure the assistance of by granting a subsidy. — **sub-si-di-za-tion** (-di-zä'shən) *n.* — **sub-si-diz'er** *n.*

sub-si-dy (süb'si-dē) *n.*, *pl. -dies*. 1. Monetary assistance granted by a government to a person or group in support of an enterprise regarded as being in the public interest. See *Synonyms at bonus*. 2. Financial assistance given by one person or government to another. 3. Money formerly granted to the British Crown by Parliament. [Middle English *subsidie*, from Anglo-Norman, from Latin *subsidium*, support : *sub-*, behind, beneath; see *SUB-* + *sedere*, to sit; see *sed-* in Appendix.]

sub-sist (süb-sist') *v.* -sist-ed, -sist-ing, -sists. — *intr.* 1. **a.** To exist; be. **b.** To remain or continue in existence. See *Synonyms at be*. 2. To maintain life; live: *subsisted on one meal a day*. 3. To be logically conceivable. — *tr.* To maintain or support with provisions. [Latin *subsistere*, to support : *sub-*, *sub-* + *sistere*, to stand; see *stā-* in Appendix.] — **sub-sist'er** *n.*

sub-sis-tence (süb-sis'təns) *n.* 1. The act or state of subsisting. 2. A means of subsisting, especially means barely sufficient to maintain life. See *Synonyms at livelihood*. 3. Something that has real or substantial existence. 4. **Theology.** Hypostasis. — **sub-sis-tent** *adj.*

sub-soil (süb'soil') *n.* The layer or bed of earth beneath the topsoil. — **subsoil** *tr.v.* -soiled, -soil-ing, -soils. To plow or turn up the subsoil of. — **sub-soil'er** *n.*

sub-so-lar (süb-sō'lär) *adj.* 1. Situated directly beneath the sun. 2. Located between the tropics; equatorial.

subsp. *abbr.* Subspecies.

sub-spe-cial-ize (süb'spĕsh'ə-līz') *intr.v.* -ized, -iz-ing, -iz-es. To have or pursue a subspecialty: *subspecialize in cosmetic surgery*. — **sub-spe-cial-ist** (-spĕsh'ə-līst) *n.* — **sub-spe-cial-i-za-tion** (-spĕsh'ə-lī-zä'shən) *n.*

sub-spe-cial-ty (süb'spĕsh'əl-tē) *n.*, *pl. -ties*. A narrow field of study or work within a specialty, as pediatric dermatology or geriatric psychiatry.

sub-spe-cies (süb'spĕ'shēz, -sēz) *n.*, *pl. subspecies*. **Abbr. ssp., subsp.** **Biology.** A subdivision of a taxonomic species, usually based on geographic distribution. — **sub-spe-cif-ic** (-spĕ-sif'ĭk) *adj.*

subst. *abbr.* 1. Substantive. 2. Substitute.

sub-stage (süb'stāj') *n.* The part of a microscope located below the stage on which attachments are held in place.

sub-stance (süb'stəns) *n.* 1. **a.** That which has mass and occupies space; matter. **b.** A material of a particular kind or constitution. 2. **a.** Essential nature; essence. **b.** Gist; heart. 3. That which is solid and practical in character, quality, or importance: *a plan without substance*. 4. Density; body: *Air has little substance*. 5. Material possessions; goods; wealth: *a person of substance*. [Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *substantia*, from *substāns*, *substānt-*, present participle of *substāre*, to be present : *sub-*, *sub-* + *stāre*, to stand; see *stā-* in Appendix.]

SYNONYMS: *substance, burden, core, gist, pith, purport.* The central meaning shared by these nouns is "the essential import or significance of something spoken or written": *the substance of her complaint; the burden of the President's speech; the core of an article; the gist of the prosecutor's argument; the pith and marrow of an essay; the purport of a document.*

substance abuse *n.* Excessive use of addictive substances, especially alcohol and narcotic drugs. Also called *chemical abuse*. — **substance abuser** *n.*

substance P *n.* A short-chain polypeptide that functions as a neurotransmitter especially in the transmission of pain impulses from peripheral receptors to the central nervous system.

sub-stan-dard (süb-stän'dörd) *adj.* 1. Failing to meet a standard; below standard. 2. **Linguistics.** **a.** Of, relating to, or indicating a pattern of linguistic usage that does not conform to that of the prestige group in a speech community or to that of the standard language. **b.** Not in accord with notions of good English; nonstandard. See *Usage Note at nonstandard*.

sub-stan-ti-a-ge-lat-i-no-sa (süb-stän'shĕ-ə-jə-lät'nō'sə) *n.* A narrow, dense, vertical band of gelatinous gray matter forming the dorsal part of the posterior column of the spinal cord and serving to integrate the sensory stimuli that give rise to the sensations of heat and pain. [New Latin *substantia gelatinosa* : Latin *substantia*, substance + New Latin *gelatinösus*, gelatinous.]

sub-stan-tial (süb-stän'shəl) *adj.* 1. Of, relating to, or having substance; material. 2. True or real; not imaginary. 3. Solidly built; strong. 4. Ample; sustaining: *a substantial breakfast*. 5. Considerable in importance, value, degree, amount, or extent: *won by a substantial margin*. 6. Possessing wealth or property; well-to-do. — **substantial** *n.* 1. An essential. Often used in the plural. 2. A solid thing. Often used in the plural. [Middle English *substantial*, from Old French *substantiel*, from Latin *substantialis*, from *substantia*, substance. See *SUBSTANCE*.] — **sub-stan'ti-al-i-ty** (-shĕ-äl'i-tē), **sub-stan'tial-ness** (-shəl-nĭs) *n.* — **sub-stan'tial-ly** *adv.*

substantia ni-gra (nĭ'grä, nĭg'rə) *n.* A layer of large, pigmented nerve cells in the mesencephalon that produce dopamine and whose destruction is associated with Parkinson's disease. [New Latin : Latin *substantia*, substance + Latin *nigra*, feminine of *niger*, black.]

sub-stan-ti-ate (süb-stän'shĕ-ät') *tr.v.* -at-ed, -at-ing, -ates. 1. To support with proof or evidence; verify: *substantiate an accusation*. See *Synonyms at confirm*. 2. **a.** To give material form to; embody. **b.** To make firm or solid. 3. To give substance to; make real or actual. [New Latin *substantiäre*, *substantiät-*, from Latin *substantia*, substance. See *SUBSTANCE*.] — **sub-stan'ti-a-tion** *n.*

sub-stan-ti-val (süb'stan-tĭ'vəl) *adj.* **Grammar.** Of or relating to the nature of a substantive. — **sub-stan-ti-val-ly** *adv.*

sub-stan-tive (süb'stän-tĭv) *adj.* **Abbr. s., sb., subst.** 1. Substantial; considerable. 2. Independent in existence or function; not subordinate. 3. Not imaginary; actual; real. 4. Of or relating to the essence or substance; essential: *substantive information*. 5. Having a solid basis; firm. 6. **Grammar.** Expressing or designating existence; for example, the verb *to be*. 7. **Grammar.** Designating a noun or noun equivalent. — **substantive** *n.* **Abbr. s., sb., subst.** **Grammar.** A word or group of words functioning as a noun. [Middle English *substantif*, self-sufficient, independent, from Old French, substantive, from Late Latin *substantivus*, from Latin *substantia*, substance. See *SUBSTANCE*.] — **sub-stan-tive-ly** *adv.* — **sub-stan-tive-ness** *n.*

sub-stan-tive right *n.* A basic right, such as life or liberty, seen as constituting part of the order of society and considered independent of and not subordinate to the body of human law.

sub-sta-tion (süb'stā'shən) *n.* A subsidiary or branch station, as of a post office or an electric utility.

ä pat	oi boy
ä pay	ou out
är care	öo took
ä father	öo boot
ë pet	ü cut
ë be	ür urge
ĭ pit	th thin
ĭ pie	th this
ĭr pier	hw which
ô pot	zh vision
ô toe	ä about, item
ô paw	♦ regionalism

Stress marks: / (primary);