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ad-i-po-cere \ə-də-pə-sir\ *n* [modif. of *F adipocere*, fr. *adip-* + *cire* wax, fr. *L cera* — more at CERUMEN] (1803): a waxy substance consisting chiefly of fatty acids and calcium soaps that is formed during decomposition of dead body fat in moist or wet anaerobic conditions

ad-i-po-cyte \ə-dī-pō-sīt\ *n* (1959): FAT CELL

ad-i-POSE \ə-də-pōs\ *adj* [NL *adiposus*, fr. *L adip-*, *adepts*] (1743): of or relating to animal fat; *broadly*: FAT — **ad-i-POS-i-ty** \ə-də-pā-sē-tē\ *n*

adipose tissue *n* (1854): connective tissue in which fat is stored and which has the cells distended by droplets of fat

Ad-i-ron-dack chair \ə-də-rān-dak-\ *n* [Adirondack Mountains, N.Y.] (1945): a wooden lawn chair with a high slatted back, broad arms, and a seat that is lower in the back than the front

ad-it \ə-dēt\ *n* [L *aditus* approach, fr. *adire* to go to, fr. *ad-* + *ire* to go — more at ISSUE] (1602): a nearly horizontal passage from the surface in a mine

ADIZ *abbr* air defense identification zone

adj *abbr* 1 adjective 2 adjunct 3 adjutant 4 adjutant

ad-ja-cen-cy \ə-jā-sən(t)-sē\ *n*, *pl* -cies (1646) 1: something that is adjacent 2: the quality or state of being adjacent: CONTIGUITY

ad-ja-cent \ə-jā-sən(t)\ *adj* [ME, fr. AF or L; AF, *afesant*, fr. L *adjacent*, *adjacens*, prp. of *adjacere* to lie near, fr. *ad-* + *jacere* to lie; akin to *L jacere* to throw — more at JET] (15c) 1 *a*: not distant: NEARBY (the city and ~ suburbs) *b*: having a common endpoint or border (~ lots) (~ sides of a triangle) *c*: immediately preceding or following 2 of two angles: having the vertex and one side in common — **ad-ja-cent-ly** *adv*

syn ADJACENT, ADJOINING, CONTIGUOUS, JUXTAPOSED mean being in close proximity. ADJACENT may or may not imply contact but always implies absence of anything of the same kind in between (a house with an adjacent garage). ADJOINING definitely implies meeting and touching at some point or line (had adjoining rooms at the hotel). CONTIGUOUS implies having contact on all or most of one side (offices in all 48 contiguous states). JUXTAPOSED means placed side by side esp. so as to permit comparison and contrast (a skyscraper juxtaposed to a church).

ad-jec-ti-val \ə-jik-tī-vəl\ *adj* (1797) 1: ADJECTIVE 2: characterized by the use of adjectives — **ad-jec-ti-val-ly** \ə-vā-lē\ *adv*

1 ad-jec-tive \ə-jik-tīv\ *adj* [ME, fr. AF or LL; AF *adjectif*, fr. LL *adjectivus*, fr. L *adjectus*, prp. of *adjicere* to throw to, fr. *ad-* + *jacere* to throw — more at JET] (14c) 1: of, relating to, or functioning as an adjective (an ~ clause) 2: not standing by itself: DEPENDENT 3: requiring or employing a mordant (~ dyes) 4: PROCEDURAL (~ law) — **ad-jec-tive-ly** *adv*

2 adjective *n* (14c): a word belonging to one of the major form classes in any of numerous languages and typically serving as a modifier of a noun to denote a quality of the thing named, to indicate its quantity or extent, or to specify a thing as distinct from something else

ad-join \ə-jōin, ə-\ *vb* [ME, fr. AF *ajoindre*, fr. L *adjungere*, fr. *ad-* + *jungere* to join — more at YOKE] *vt* (14c) 1: to add or attach by joining 2: to lie next to or in contact with ~ *vi*: to be close to or in contact with one another

ad-join-ing *adj* (15c): touching or bounding at a point or line **syn** see ADJACENT

ad-joint \ə-jōint\ *n* [F, fr. pp. of *adjoindre* to adjoin] (1889): the transposition of a matrix in which each element is replaced by its cofactor

ad-journ \ə-jōrn\ *vb* [ME *ajournen*, fr. OF *ajornen* to order to appear in court on a certain day, fr. *a-* (fr. L *ad-*) + *jour* day — more at JOURNEY] *vt* (15c): to suspend indefinitely or until a later stated time ~ *vi* 1: to suspend a session indefinitely or to another time or place 2: to move to another place

ad-journ-ment \-mənt\ *n* (1607) 1: the act of adjourning 2: the state or interval of being adjourned

ad-judge \ə-jē\ *vt* **ad-judged**; **ad-judg-ing** [ME *ajugen*, fr. AF *ajuger*, fr. L *adjudicare*, fr. *ad-* + *judicare* to judge — more at JUDGE] (14c) 1 *a*: to decide or rule upon as a judge: ADJUDICATE *b*: to pronounce judicially: RULE 2 *archaic*: SENTENCE, CONDEMN 3: to hold or pronounce to be: DEEM (~ the book a success) 4: to award or grant judicially in a case of controversy

ad-ju-di-cate \ə-jū-dī-kāt\ *vb* -cat-ed; -cat-ing *vt* (1775): to settle judicially ~ *vi*: to act as judge — **ad-ju-di-ca-tive** \-kāt-iv, -kē-\ *adj* — **ad-ju-di-ca-tor** \-kāt-ər\ *n* — **ad-ju-di-ca-to-ry** \-jū-dī-kə-tōr-ē\ *adj*

ad-ju-di-ca-tion \ə-jū-dī-kā-shən\ *n* [F or LL; F, fr. LL *adjudicatio*, fr. L *adjudicare*] (1691) 1: the act or process of adjudicating 2 *a*: a judicial decision or sentence *b*: a decree in bankruptcy

1 ad-junct \ə-jəŋ(k)\ *n* [L *adjunctum*, fr. neut. of *adjunctus*, prp. of *adjungere*] (1588) 1: something joined or added to another thing but not essentially a part of it 2 *a*: a word or word group that qualifies or completes the meaning of another word or other words and is not itself a main structural element in its sentence *b*: an adverb or adverbial (as *heartily* in "They ate heartily" or *at noon* in "We left at noon") attached to the verb of a clause esp. to express a relation of time, place, frequency, degree, or manner — compare DISJUNCT 2 3 *a*: an associate or assistant of another *b*: an adjunct faculty member at a college or university 4: ADJUVANT *b* — **ad-junct-ive** \ə-jəŋ(k)-tīv, ə-\ *adj*

2 adjunct *adj* (1594) 1: added or joined as an accompanying object or circumstance 2: attached in a subordinate or temporary capacity to a staff (an ~ professor) — **ad-junct-ly** \ə-jəŋ(k)-tlē, -jəŋk-lē\ *adv*

ad-junc-tion \ə-jəŋ(k)-shən\ *n* (1618): the act or process of adjoining

ad-ju-ra-tion \ə-jə-rā-shən\ *n* (1611) 1: a solemn oath 2: an earnest urging or advising — **ad-ju-ra-to-ry** \ə-jūr-ə-tōr-ē\ *adj*

ad-jure \ə-jūr\ *vt* **ad-jured**; **ad-jur-ing** [ME, fr. L *adjurare*, fr. *ad-* + *jurare* to swear — more at JURY] (14c) 1: to command solemnly under oath or as if under oath or penalty of a curse 2: to urge or advise earnestly **syn** see BEG

ad-just \ə-jəst\ *vb* [ME *ajusten*, fr. OF *ajuster* to make conform, fr. *a-* (fr. L *ad-*) + *juste* right, exact — more at JUST] *vt* (14c) 1 *a*: to bring to a more satisfactory state: (1) SETTLE, RESOLVE (2) RECTIFY *b*: to make correspondent or conformable: ADAPT (~ to: bring the parts of to a true or more effective relative position (~ a carburetor)

others **syn** see ADAPT — **ad-just-abil-i-ty** \-jəs-tə-bi-lə-tē\ *n* — **ad-just-able** \-jəs-tə-bəl\ *adj* — **ad-just-ive** \-jəs-tiv\ *adj*

adjustable rate mortgage *n* (1981): a mortgage having an interest rate which is usu. initially lower than that of a mortgage with a fixed rate but is adjusted periodically according to the cost of funds to the lender

ad-just-ed *adj* (1662) 1: accommodated to suit a particular set of circumstances or requirements 2: having achieved an often specified and usu. harmonious relationship with the environment or with other individuals (a well-adjusted schoolchild)

ad-just-er also **ad-just-er** \ə-jəs-tər\ *n* (1673): one that adjusts; *esp*: an insurance agent who investigates personal or property damage and makes estimates for effecting settlements

ad-just-ment \ə-jəs(t)-mənt\ *n* (1644) 1: the act or process of adjusting 2: a settlement of a claim or debt in a case in which the amount involved is uncertain or full payment is not made 3: the state of being adjusted 4: a means (as a mechanism) by which things are adjusted one to another 5: a correction or modification to reflect actual conditions — **ad-just-men-tal** \ə-jəs(t)-men-tl, ə-jəs(t)-\ *adj*

ad-ju-tan-cy \ə-jə-tən(t)-sē\ *n* (1775): the office or rank of an adjutant

ad-ju-tant \ə-jə-tənt\ *n* [L *adjutant*, *adjutans*, prp. of *adjutare* to help — more at AID] (1539) 1: a staff officer in the army, air force, or marine corps who assists the commanding officer and is responsible esp. for correspondence 2: one who helps: ASSISTANT

adjutant general *n*, *pl* **adjutants general** (1645) 1: the chief administrative officer of an army who is responsible esp. for the administration and preservation of personnel records 2: the chief administrative officer of a major military unit (as a division or corps)

1 ad-ju-vant \ə-jə-vənt\ *adj* [F or L; F, fr. L *adjuvant*, *adjuvans*, prp. of *adjuvare* to aid — more at AID] (1574) 1: serving to aid or contribute: AUXILIARY 2: assisting in the prevention, amelioration, or cure of disease (~ chemotherapy following surgery)

2 adjuvant *n* (1609): one that helps or facilitates: as *a*: an ingredient (as in a prescription or a solution) that modifies the action of the principal ingredient *b*: something (as a drug or method) that enhances the effectiveness of medical treatment (used chemotherapy as an ~ to surgery) *c*: a substance (as one added to a vaccine) enhancing the immune response to an antigen

ADL *abbr* 1 activities of daily living 2 Anti-Defamation League

Ad-le-ri-an \əd-ler-i-ən, əd-\ *adj* [Alfred Adler] (1924): of, relating to, or being a theory and technique of psychotherapy emphasizing the importance of feelings of inferiority, a will to power, and overcompensation in neurotic processes

1 ad-lib \əd-lib\ *vb* **ad-libbed**; **ad-lib-bing** [*ad lib*] *vt* (1919): to deliver spontaneously ~ *vi*: to improvise esp. lines or a speech — **ad-lib** *n*

2 ad-lib *adj* (1935): spoken, composed, or performed without preparation

ad lib *adv* [NL *ad libitum*] (1794) 1: in accordance with one's wishes 2: without restraint or limit

1 ad li-bit-um \(\,əd-li-bə-təm\ *adv* [NL, in accordance with desire] (1610): AD LIB (rats fed *ad libitum*)

2 ad libitum *adj* (ca. 1801): omissible according to a performer's wishes — used as a direction in music; compare OBLIGATO

ad loc *abbr* [L *ad locum*] to or at the place

adm *abbr* administration; administrative

ADM *abbr* admiral

ad-man \əd-ˈmən\ *n* (1909): a person who writes, solicits, or places advertisements

ad-mass \əd-ˈmas\ *n*, often *attrib* [advertising + mass] (1955) chiefly Brit: mass-media advertising; also: the society influenced by it

ad-measure \əd-ˈme-zhər, -ˈmā-\ *adj* -sured; -sur-ing [ME *amesuren*, fr. AF *amesurer*, fr. *a-* (fr. L *ad-*) + *mesurer* to measure] (1641): to determine the proper share of: APPORTION

ad-measure-ment \-mə-zhər-mənt, -ˈmā-\ *n* (1523) 1: determination and apportionment of shares 2: determination or comparison of dimensions 3: DIMENSIONS, SIZE

Ad-mē-tus \əd-mē-təs\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Admētōs*] (1567): a king of Pherae who was saved by Apollo from his fated death when his wife Alcestis offers to die in his place

admin *abbr* administration; administrative

ad-min-is-ter \əd-ˈmi-nə-stər\ *vb* -is-tered; -is-ter-ing \-st(ə)-rɪŋ\ [ME *administer*, fr. AF *administrare*, fr. L *administrare*, fr. *ad-* + *ministrare* to serve, fr. *minister* servant — more at MINISTER] *vt* (14c) 1: to manage or supervise the execution, use, or conduct of (~ a trust fund) 2 *a*: to mete out: DISPENSE (~ punishment) *b*: to give ritually (~ the last rites) *c*: to give remedially (~ a dose of medicine) ~ *vi* 1: to perform the office of administrator 2: to furnish a benefit: MINISTER (~ to an ailing friend) 3: to manage affairs — **ad-min-is-trable** \-strə-bəl\ *adj* — **ad-min-is-trant** \-strənt\ *n*

ad-min-is-trate \-strāt\ *vb* -trat-ed; -trat-ing [L *administratus*, prp. of *administrare*] (1550): ADMINISTER

ad-min-is-tra-tion \əd-ˈmi-nə-ˈstrā-shən, (ˈ)d-ə-\ *n* (14c) 1: performance of executive duties: MANAGEMENT 2: the act or process of administering 3: the execution of public affairs as distinguished from policy-making 4 *a*: a body of persons who administer *b* *often cap*: a group constituting the political executive in a presidential government *c*: a governmental agency or board 5: the term of office of an administrative officer or body

ad-min-is-tra-tive \əd-ˈmi-nə-ˈstrā-tiv, -strə-\ *adj* (ca. 1731): of or relating to administration or an administration: EXECUTIVE — **ad-min-is-tra-tive-ly** *adv*

administrative county *n* (1949): a British local administrative unit often not coincident with an older county

administrative law *n* (1851): law dealing with the establishment, duties, and powers of and available remedies against authorized agencies in the executive branch of the government

ad-min-is-tra-tor \əd-ˈmi-nə-ˈstrā-tər, -ˈstrā-tōr\ *n* (15c) 1: a person legally vested with the right of administration of an estate 2 *a*: one who administers esp. business, school, or governmental affairs *b*: a priest appointed to administer a diocese or parish temporarily

ety) ~ vi 1: SEPARATE, WITHDRAW 2: to practice or enforce a policy of segregation 3: to undergo genetic segregation — **seg-re-ga-tive** \sē-gā-tiv\ *adj*

2 seg-re-gate \se-gri-gat-, -gāt\ *n* (1871): one that is in some respect segregated; *esp*: one that differs genetically from the parental line because of genetic segregation

segregated *adj* (1652) 1 a: set apart or separated from others of the same kind or group (< ~ account in a bank) b: divided in facilities or administered separately for members of different groups or races (< ~ education) c: restricted to members of one group or one race by a policy of segregation (< ~ schools) 2: practicing or maintaining segregation esp. of races (< ~ states)

seg-re-ga-tion \se-gri-gā-shən\ *n* (1555) 1: the act or process of segregating: the state of being segregated 2 a: the separation or isolation of a race, class, or ethnic group by enforced or voluntary residence in a restricted area, by barriers to social intercourse, by separate educational facilities, or by other discriminatory means b: the separation for special treatment or observation of individuals or items from a larger group (< ~ of gifted children into accelerated classes) 3: the separation of allelic genes that occurs typically during meiosis

seg-re-ga-tion-ist \-sh(ə)-nist\ *n* (1913): a person who believes in or practices segregation esp. of races — **segregationist** *adj*

1 segue \se-(j)gwā-, 'sā-\ *vb* *imper* [It, there follows, fr. *seguire* to follow, fr. L *sequi* — more at **SUE**] (ca. 1740) 1: proceed to what follows without pause — used as a direction in music 2: perform the music that follows like that which has preceded — used as a direction in music

2 segue *vi* **se-queued**; **se-que-ing** (ca. 1913) 1: to proceed without pause from one musical number or theme to another 2: to make a transition without interruption from one activity, topic, scene, or part to another (*segued* smoothly into the next story)

3 segue *n* (ca. 1937): the act or an instance of segueing

se-gui-di-lla \se-gō-dē-yō-, 'dēl-yō\ *n* [Sp. dim. of *seguida*, a dance, lit., sequence, fr. *seguido*, pp. of *seguir* to follow, fr. L *sequi*] (1763) 1 a: a Spanish dance with many regional variations b: the music for such a dance 2: a Spanish stanza of four or seven short partly assonant verses

sei-cen-to \sā-'chen-(j)tō\ *n* [It, lit., six-hundred, fr. *sei* six (fr. L *sex*) + *cento* hundred — more at **SIX**, **CINQUECENTO**] (ca. 1902): the 17th century; *specif*: the 17th century period in Italian literature and art

seiche \sāsh-, 'sēch\ *n* [F] (ca. 1839): an oscillation of the surface of a landlocked body of water (as a lake) that varies in period from a few minutes to several hours

sei-del \sī-'dēl-, 'zī-\ *n* [G, fr. MHG *sidel*, fr. L *situla* bucket] (1908): a large glass for beer

Seid-litz powders \sed-lats-\ *pl* [*Sedlitz* (Sedlčany), village in Bohemia; fr. the similarity of their effect to that of the water of the village] (1815): effervescing salts consisting of one powder of sodium bicarbonate and Rochelle salt and another of tartaric acid that are mixed in water and drunk as a mild cathartic

seigneur \sān-'yōr\ *n*, *often cap* [MF, fr. ML *senior*, fr. L, *adj.*, elder — more at **SENIOR**] (1592) 1: a man of rank or authority; *esp*: the feudal lord of a manor 2: a member of the landed gentry of Canada

seigneurial \-'yūr-ē-əl-, -'yār-\ *adj* (1656): of, relating to, or befitting a seigneur

seigneury \sān-yō-rē\ *n*, *pl* **-gneur-ies** (1630) 1 a: the territory under the government of a feudal lord b: a landed estate held in Canada by feudal tenure until 1854 2: the manor house of a Canadian seigneur

seignior \sān-'yōr-, 'sān-\ *n* [ME *seignour*, fr. AF *seigneur*, fr. ML *senior*] (14c): **SEIGNEUR** 1

seignior-age or **seignior-ry** \sān-yō-rij\ *n* [ME *seigneurage*, fr. AF *seigneurage* right of the lord (esp. to coin money), fr. *seigneur*] (15c): a government revenue from the manufacture of coins calculated as the difference between the face value and the metal value of the coins

seignior-y or **seignory** \sān-yō-rē\ *n*, *pl* **-gnior-ies** or **-gnor-ies** (14c) 1: LORDSHIP, DOMINION; *specif*: the power or authority of a feudal lord 2: the territory over which a lord holds jurisdiction

seignior-ial \sān-'yōr-ē-əl\ *adj* (1796): of, relating to, or befitting a seignior: **MANORIAL**

1 seine \sān\ *n* [ME, fr. OE *segne*, fr. L *sagena*, fr. Gk *sagēnē*] (bef. 12c): a large net with sinkers on one edge and floats on the other that hangs vertically in the water and is used to enclose and catch fish when its ends are pulled together or are drawn ashore

2 seine *vb* **seined**; **seining** *vi* (1836): to fish with or catch fish with a seine ~ *vt*: to fish for or in with a seine

seiner \sā-nēr\ *n* (1602) 1: one who fishes with a seine 2: a boat used for seining

sei-sin or **sei-zin** \sē-z'n\ *n* [ME *seisine*, fr. AF, fr. *seisir* to seize — more at **SEIZE**] (14c) 1: the possession of land or chattels 2: the possession of a freehold estate in land by one having title thereto

seis-mic \sīz-mik-, 'sīs-\ *adj* [Gk *seismos* shock, earthquake, fr. *seiein* to shake; prob. akin to Av *thweshō* fear] (1858) 1: of, subject to, or caused by an earthquake; *also*: of or relating to an earth vibration caused by something else (as an explosion or the impact of a meteorite) 2: of or relating to a vibration on a celestial body (as the moon) comparable to a seismic event on earth 3: having a strong or widespread impact: **EARTHSHAKING** (< ~ social changes) — **seis-mi-cal-ly** \-mik(ə)-lē\ *adv*

seis-mic-i-ty \sīz-'mī-sā-tē-, 'sīs-\ *n* (1902): the relative frequency and distribution of earthquakes

seismo- *comb form* [Gk, fr. *seismos*]: earthquake: vibration (< *seismometer*)

Seis-mo-gram \sīz-mō-'gram-, 'sīs-\ *n* [ISV] (ca. 1891): the record of an earth tremor by a seismograph

seis-mo-graph \-'grāf\ *n* [ISV] (1858): an apparatus to measure and record vibrations within the earth and of the ground — **seis-mog-ra-pher** \sīz-'mā-grə-fər-, 'sīs-\ *n* — **seis-mo-graph-ic** \sīz-mō-'grā-fik-, 'sīs-\ *adj* — **seis-mog-ra-phy** \sīz-'mā-grā-fē-, 'sīs-\ *n*

seis-mol-o-gy \sīz-'mā-lō-jē-, 'sīs-\ *n* [ISV] (1858): a science that deals

ing the actual movements of the ground (as on the earth or the moon) — **seis-mo-met-ric** \sīz-mō-'mē-trik-, 'sīs-\ *adj*

seis-mo-met-ry \sīz-'mā-mō-trē-, 'sīs-\ *n* [ISV] (1858): the scientific study of earthquakes

sei-tan \sā-,tan-, 'tān\ *n* [origin unknown] (1974): flavored wheat gluten often used as a meat analogue

sei whale \sā-, 'sī-\ *n* [part trans. of Norw *seihval*, fr. *sei* coalfish + *hval* whale] (1912): a widely distributed dark gray baleen whale (*Balaenoptera borealis*) that has a ridge on the top of the head and may reach a length of nearly 60 feet (18 meters) — called also *sei*

seize \sēz\ *vb* **seized**; **seiz-ing** [ME *saisien*, fr. AF *seisir*, fr. ML *sacire*, of Gmc origin; perh. akin to OHG *sezzen* to set — more at **SET**] *vi* (14c) 1 a *usu* **seise** \sēz\ : to vest ownership of a freehold estate in b *often seise* : to put in possession of something (the biographer will be *seized* of all pertinent papers) 2 a: to take possession of: **CONFISCATE** b: to take possession of by legal process 3 a: to possess or take by force: **CAPTURE** b: to take prisoner: **ARREST** 4 a: to take hold of: **CLUTCH** b: to possess oneself of: **GRASP** c: to understand fully and distinctly: **APPREHEND** 5 a: to attack or overwhelm physically: **AFFLICT** (< *seized* with chest pains) b: to possess (as one's mind) completely or overwhelmingly (< *seized* the popular imagination — Basil Davenport) 6: to bind or fasten together with a lashing of small stuff (as yarn, marline, or fine wire) ~ *vi* 1: to take or lay hold suddenly or forcibly 2 a: to cohere to a relatively moving part through excessive pressure, temperature, or friction — used esp. of machine parts (as bearings, brakes, or pistons) b: to fail to operate due to the seizing of a part — used of an engine *syn* see **TAKE** — **seiz-er** *n*

seizing *n* (14c) 1 a: the cord or lashing used in binding or fastening b: the fastening so made — see **KNOT** illustration 2: the operation of fastening together or lashing with tarred small stuff

seiz-ure \sē-'zhər\ *n* (15c) 1 a: the act, action, or process of seizing: the state of being seized b: the taking possession of person or property by legal process 2 a: a sudden attack (as of disease); *esp*: the physical manifestations (as convulsions, sensory disturbances, or loss of consciousness) resulting from abnormal electrical discharges in the brain (as in epilepsy) b: an abnormal electrical discharge in the brain

sejant \sē-jant\ *adj* [modif. of MF *seant*, prp. of *seoir* to sit, fr. L *sedēre* — more at **SIT**] (ca. 1500): **SITTING** — used of a heraldic animal

1 sel \sēl\ *chiefly Scot* var of **SELF**

2 sel *abbr* select; selected; selection

se-la-chi-an \sō-'lā-kē-ən\ *n* [ultim. fr. Gk *selachos* cartilaginous phosphorescent fish; akin to Gk *selas* brightness] (1835): any of a variously classified group (Selachii) of cartilaginous fishes that includes the existing sharks and typically most related elasmobranchs (as rays) — **selachian** *adj*

se-lag-i-ne-lā \sō-'lā-jō-'ne-lā\ *n* [NL, fr. L *selagin*-, *selago*, a plant resembling the savin] (1891): any of a genus (*Selaginella*) of mosslike lower tracheophytes that are related to or grouped with the club mosses and have scalelike leaves and produce one-celled sporangia containing both megaspores and microspores

se-lah \sē-lā-, -lā\ *interj* [Heb *selāh*] (ca. 1530) — a term of uncertain meaning found in the Hebrew text of the Psalms and Habakkuk carried over untranslated into some English versions

sel-couth \sēl-'kūth\ *adj* [ME, fr. OE *selcūth*, fr. *seldan* seldom + *cūth* known — more at **UNCOUTH**] (bef. 12c) *archaic*: **UNUSUAL**, **STRANGE**

1 sel-dom \sēl-'dəm\ *adv* [ME, fr. OE *seldan*; akin to OHG *seltan* seldom] (bef. 12c): in few instances: **RARELY**, **INFREQUENTLY**

2 seldom *adj* (13c): **RARE**, **INFREQUENT**

1 se-lect \sō-'lekt\ *adj* [L *selectus*, pp. of *selegere* to select, fr. *se-* apart (fr. *sed*, *se* without) + *legere* to gather, select — more at **SUICIDE**, **LEGEND**] (ca. 1555) 1: chosen from a number or group by fitness or preference 2 a: of special value or excellence: **SUPERIOR**, **CHOICE** b: exclusively or fastidiously chosen often with regard to social, economic, or cultural characteristics 3: judicious or restrictive in choice: **DISCRIMINATING** (< pleased with the ~ appreciation of his books — Osbert Sitwell) — **se-lect-able** \sō-'lekt-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **se-lect-ness** \sō-'lekt(t)-nəs\ *n* — **se-lect-or** \sō-'lekt-ər\ *n*

2 select *vt* (1566): to choose (as by fitness or excellence) from a number or group: pick out ~ *vi*: to make a choice

3 select *n* (1610): one that is select — often used in pl.

se-lect-ed \sō-'lekt-əd\ *adj* (1590): **SELECT**; *specif*: of a higher grade or quality than the ordinary

se-lect-ee \sō-'lekt-ē\ *n* (1940) 1: a person inducted into military service under selective service 2: a person who is chosen from a group by fitness or preference

se-lection \sō-'lekt-shən\ *n* (ca. 1623) 1: the act or process of selecting: the state of being selected 2: one that is selected: **CHOICE**; *also*: a collection of selected things 3: a natural or artificial process that results or tends to result in the survival and propagation of some individuals or organisms but not of others with the result that the inherited traits of the survivors are perpetuated — compare **DARWINISM**, **NATURAL SELECTION** *syn* see **CHOICE**

se-lection-ist \-sh(ə)-nist\ *n* (1892): one who considers natural selection a fundamental factor in evolution — **selectionist** *adj*

se-lect-ive \sō-'lekt-iv\ *adj* (1625) 1: of, relating to, or characterized by selection: selecting or tending to select 2: highly specific in activity or effect (< ~ pesticides) (< ~ absorption) — **se-lect-ive-ly** *adv* — **se-lect-ive-ness** *n* — **se-lect-iv-i-ty** \sō-'lekt-'ti-və-tē-, 'sē-\ *n*

selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor *n* (1987): **SSRI**

selective service *n* (1917): a system under which men are called up for military service: **DRAFT**

se-lect-man \sī-'lekt(t)-'man-, 'lekt(t)-'mən; 'sē-'lekt(t)-'man\ *n* (1635): one of a board of officials elected in towns of all New England states except Rhode Island to serve as the chief administrative authority of the town

1 selen- or **seleno-** *comb form* [L *selen-*, fr. Gk *selēn-*, fr. *selēnē* — more at **SELENIUM**]: moon (< *selenium*) (< *selenology*)

\ə\ about \ə\ kitten. F table \ər\ further \ə\ ash \əl\ ace \əl\ mop mar