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stepson

sternutation

step·son (stĕp'sŭn') *n.* A spouse's son by a previous marriage.

step stool *n.* A stool, often with folding steps attached, on which one stands to reach high objects.

step-up (stĕp'ŭp') *adj.* 1. Increasing in steps or by stages. 2. *Elect.* Serving to increase voltage: a *step-up transformer*. — *n.* An increase in size, amount, or activity.

step-wise (stĕp'wīz') *adj.* 1. Marked by a gradual progression as if step by step. 2. *Mus.* Moving from one tone to an adjacent one. — **step'wise'** *adv.*

ster. *abbr.* Sterling.

-ster suff. 1. One that is associated with, participates in, makes, or does: *songsster*. 2. One that is: *youngster*. [ME < OE *-estre*, female agent suff.]

ste·ra·di·an (stĕr'ā'dĕ-an) *n.* A unit of measure equal to the solid angle subtended at the center of a sphere by an area on the surface of the sphere that is equal to the radius squared. See table at **measurement**. [STR(geo) + RADIAN.]

ster·co·ra·caous (stĕr'kə-rā'shəs) also **ster·co·rous** (stĕr'kō-rəs) *adj.* Consisting of or relating to excrement. [Lat. *stercus*, *stercor-*, dung; see *sker-* + *-aceous*.]

stere (stĕr) *n.* A unit of volume equal to one cubic meter. [Fr. *stère* < Gk. *stereos*, solid, hard. See *ster-1**.]

ster·e·o (stĕr'ē-ō', stĕr'ē-) *n., pl. -os*. 1. a. A stereophonic sound-reproduction system. b. Stereophonic sound. 2. A stereotype. 3. A stereoscopic system or photograph. — *adj.* 1. Stereophonic. 2. Stereoscopic.

stereo- *pref.* 1. Solid; solid body: *stereotropism*. 2. Three-dimensional: *stereoscope*. [Gk. < *stereos*, solid. See *ster-1**.]

ster·e·o·bate (stĕr'ē-ō-bāt', stĕr'ē-) *n.* 1. See **stylobate**. 2. The foundation of a stone building, its top corner sometimes being a stylobate. [Lat. *stereobatis* < Gk. *stereobatis*: *stereos*, solid; see *STEREO-* + *-bātis*, walker (< *bainein*, to go; see *gamb-*).]

ster·e·o·chem·is·try (stĕr'ē-ō-kĕm'ī-strĕ, stĕr'ē-) *n.* The branch of chemistry that deals with spatial arrangements of atoms in molecules and the chemical and physical effects of these arrangements. — **ster'ē·o·chem'ī·cal** (-ī-kəl) *adj.*

ster·e·o·chro·my (stĕr'ē-ō-krō'mĕ, stĕr'ē-) *n., pl. -mies*. The art or process of mural painting with pigments mixed with water glass. — **ster'ē·o·chro·m'** *n.* — **ster'ē·o·chro'mic** *adj.* — **ster'ē·o·chro'mī·cal·ly** *adv.*

ster·e·o·gram (stĕr'ē-ō-grām', stĕr'ē-) *n.* 1. A picture or diagram that gives the impression of solidity. 2. A stereograph.

ster·e·o·graph (stĕr'ē-ō-grāf', stĕr'ē-) *n.* Two stereoscopic pictures or one picture with two superposed stereoscopic images, designed to give a three-dimensional effect when viewed through a stereoscope or special glasses. — *tr.v.* **-graph·ing**, **-graphs**. To make a stereographic picture of.

ster·e·o·gra·phy (stĕr'ē-ō-grā-fĕ, stĕr'ē-) *n.* 1. The art or technique of depicting solid bodies on a plane surface. 2. Photography that involves the use of stereoscopic equipment. — **ster'ē·o·graph'ī·cal** (-ā-grāf'ī-kəl), **ster'ē·o·graph'ī·cal** (-ī-kəl) *adj.* — **ster'ē·o·graph'ī·cal·ly** *adv.*

ster·e·o·i·so·mer (stĕr'ē-ō-ī-sō-mĕr, stĕr'ē-) *n.* One of a set of isomers whose molecules have the same atoms bonded to each other but differ in the way these atoms are arranged in space.

ster·e·o·i·som·er·ism (stĕr'ē-ō-ī-sōm'ĕr-īz'm, stĕr'ē-) *n.* Isomerism due to differences in the spatial arrangement of atoms in a molecule. — **ster'ē·o·i·sō'mer'ī·cal** (-ī-sō-mĕr'ī-kəl) *adj.*

ster·e·ol·o·gy (stĕr'ē-ōl-ō-jĕ, stĕr'ē-) *n.* The study of three-dimensional properties of objects or matter, usu. observed two-dimensionally. — **ster'ē·o·log'ī·cal** (-ō-lōj'ī-kəl), **ster'ē·o·log'ī·cal** (-ī-kəl) *adj.* — **ster'ē·o·log'ī·cal·ly** *adv.*

ster·e·o·phon·ic (stĕr'ē-ō-fōn'īk, stĕr'ē-) *adj.* Of or used in a sound-reproduction system that uses two or more separate channels to give a more natural distribution of sound. — **ster'ē·o·phon'ī·cal·ly** *adv.* — **ster'ē·o·pho'nō·y** (-ĕ-ōf'ō-nĕ) *n.*

ster·e·op·sis (stĕr'ē-ōp'sĭs, stĕr'ē-) *n.* Stereoscopic vision.

ster·e·op·ti·con (stĕr'ē-ōp'tĭ-kōn', stĕr'ē-) *n.* A magic lantern, esp. one with two projectors arranged so as to produce dissolving views. [New Latin: *STEREO-* + Gk. *optikon*, neut. of *optikos*, optic; see *OPTIC*.]

ster·e·o·scope (stĕr'ē-ō-skōp', stĕr'ē-) *n.* An instrument with two eyepieces used to impart a three-dimensional effect to two photographs of the same scene from slightly different angles.

ster·e·o·scop·ic (stĕr'ē-ō-skōp'īk, stĕr'ē-) *adj.* 1. Of or relating to stereoscopy. 2. Of or relating to a stereoscope. — **ster'ē·o·scop'ī·cal·ly** *adv.*

ster·e·os·co·py (stĕr'ē-ōs'kō-pĕ, stĕr'ē-) *n.* 1. The viewing of objects as three-dimensional. 2. The technique of making or using stereoscopes and stereoscopic slides.

ster·e·o·tax·is (stĕr'ē-ō-tāk'sĭs, stĕr'ē-) *n.* 1. A method in neurosurgery and neurological research for locating points within the brain using an external three-dimensional frame of reference, usu. based on the Cartesian coordinate system. 2. Movement of an organism in response to contact with a solid body. — **ster'ē·o·tac'tic** (-tāk'tĭk) *adj.*

ster·e·ot·ro·pism (stĕr'ē-ōt'rō-pĭz'm, stĕr'ē-) *n.* See **thigmotropism**. — **ster'ē·o·trop'ī·cal** (-ĕ-ō-trop'ī-kəl) *adj.*



Isaac Stern Photographed in 1990

ster·e·o·type (stĕr'ē-ō-tĭp', stĕr'ē-) *n.* 1. A conventional, formulaic, and oversimplified conception or image. 2. One seen as embodying or conforming to a stereotype. 3. *Print.* A metal printing plate cast from a matrix molded from a raised printing surface. — *tr.v.* **-typed**, **-typ·ing**, **-types**. 1. To make a stereotype of. 2. To characterize by a stereotype. 3. To give a fixed, unvarying form to. 4. To print from a stereotype. [Fr. *stéréotype*, stereotype printing: *stéréo-*, solid (< Gk. *stereos*; see *STEREO-*) + *type*, printing type (< OFr., symbol < LLat. *typus*; see *TYPE*).] — **ster'ē·o·typ'er** *n.* — **ster'ē·o·typ'le** (-tĭp'ĭk), **ster'ē·o·typ'ī·cal** (-ī-kəl) *adj.* — **ster'ē·o·typ'ī·cal·ly** *adv.*

ster·e·o·typed (stĕr'ē-ō-tĭpt', stĕr'ē-) *adj.* 1. Lacking originality or creativity. 2. *Print.* Made from stereotype plates.

ster·e·o·ty·py (stĕr'ē-ō-tĭ-pĕ, stĕr'ē-) *n., pl. -pies*. 1. Excessive repetition or lack of variation in movements, ideas, or patterns of speech. 2. *Print.* The process or art of making stereotype plates.

ster·ic (stĕr'ĭk, stĕr'ē-) also **ster·ic·cal** (-ī-kəl) *adj.* *Phys. & Chem.* Of or relating to the spatial arrangement of atoms in a molecule. [STR(cho) + *-ic*.] — **ster'ī·cal·ly** *adv.*

ster·ig·ma (stĕr'ĭg'mā) *n., pl. -ma·ta* (-mə-tā). A slender projection of the basidium of some fungi that bears a basidiospore. [NLat. < Gk. *stérigma*, support < *stérizein*, *stérig-*, to support. See *ster-1**.]

ster·il·ant (stĕr'ĭ-ā-lənt) *n.* A sterilizing agent.

ster·ile (stĕr'ĭl, -il') *adj.* 1. Not producing or incapable of producing offspring. 2. a. Not producing or incapable of producing seed, fruit spores, or other reproductive structures. Used of plants or their parts. b. Producing little or no vegetation; unfruitful. 3. Free from live bacteria or other microorganisms. 4. Lacking imagination, creativity, or vitality. 5. Lacking the power to function; not productive or effective; fruitless. [ME < OFr. < Lat. *sterilis*.] — **ster'īle·ly** *adv.* — **ster'īle·ness**, **ster'īl'ī·ty** (stĕr'īl'ī-tĕ) *n.*

ster·il·i·za·tion (stĕr'ĭ-lĭ-zā'shən) *n.* 1. The act or procedure of sterilizing. 2. The condition of being sterile or sterilized.

ster·il·ize (stĕr'ĭ-lĭz') *tr.v.* **-ized**, **-iz·ing**, **-iz·es**. 1. To remove live bacteria or other microorganisms from. 2. To make (a person or an animal) unable to produce offspring. 3. a. To make incapable of bearing fruit or germinating. b. To render (land) unfruitful. 4. *Econ.* To place (gold) in safekeeping so as not to affect the supply of money or credit. 5. To make inoffensive or innocuous. — **ster'īl·iz'er** *n.*

ster·let (stĕr'lĭt) *n.* A sturgeon (*Acipenser ruthenus*) of the Black and Caspian seas, used as a source of caviar. [Russ. *sterlyad'* < ORuss. *sterlyagi*, of Gmc. orig.]

ster·ling (stĕr'lĭŋ) *n.* 1. British money, esp. the pound as the basic monetary unit of the United Kingdom. 2. British coinage of silver or gold, having as a standard of fineness 0.500 for silver and 0.91666 for gold. 3. a. Sterling silver. b. Articles made of sterling silver. — *adj.* 1. Consisting of or relating to sterling or British money. 2. Made of sterling silver: a *sterling teaspoon*. 3. Of the highest quality: a *sterling character*. [ME, silver penny: poss. *sterre*, star; see *STAR* + *-ling*, dim. suff. (< the small star stamped on the coin); see *-LING*.]

Ster·ling Heights (stĕr'lĭŋ). A city of SE MI, a suburb of Detroit. Pop. 117,810.

sterling silver *n.* 1. An alloy of 92.5 percent silver with copper or another metal. 2. Objects made of this alloy.

stern (stĕrn) *adj.* **stern·er**, **stern·est**. 1. Hard, harsh, or severe in manner or character: a *stern disciplinarian*. See **Syns at severe**. 2. Grim, gloomy, or forbidding in appearance or outlook. 3. Firm or unyielding; uncompromising. 4. Inexorable; relentless: *stern necessity*. [ME *sterne* < OE *styrne*. See *ster-1**.] — **stern'ly** *adv.* — **stern'ness** *n.*

stern (stĕrn) *n.* 1. *Naut.* The rear part of a ship or boat. 2. A rear part or section. [ME *sterne*, perh. of Scand. orig.; akin to ON *stjörn*, rudder. See *stā-*.]

Stern (stĕrn), Isaac. b. 1920. Russian-born Amer. violinist considered among the great virtuosos of the 20th cent.

ster·na (stĕr'nā) *n.* Pl. of **sternum**.

ster·nal (stĕr'nəl) *adj.* Of, relating to, or near the sternum.

stern chaser *n.* A gun or cannon mounted on the stern of a ship for firing at a pursuing vessel.

Sterne (stĕrn), Laurence. 1713–68. British writer whose works include *Tristram Shandy* (1761-67).

stern·fore·most (stĕrn'fōr'mōst', -fōr'-) *adv.* *Naut.* With the stern foremost; backward.

stern·most (stĕrn'mōst') *adj.* *Naut.* Closest to the stern.

stern·post (stĕrn'pōst') *n.* *Naut.* The principal upright post at the stern of a vessel, usu. serving to support the rudder.

stern sheets *pl.n.* *Naut.* The stern area of an open boat.

stern·son (stĕrn'sŏn) *n.* *Naut.* A bar of metal or wood set between the keelson and the sternpost to fortify the joint. [STERN² + (KEEL)SON.]

ster·num (stĕr'nəm) *n., pl. -nums* or **-na** (-nā). A long flat bone in most vertebrates that is situated along the ventral midline of the thorax and articulates with the ribs. [NLat. < Gk. *sternon*, breast, breastbone. See *ster-2**.]

ster·nu·ta·tion (stĕr'nyū-tā'shən) *n.* 1. The act of sneezing.

2. A snu
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sneezing,
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