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transition element *n.* Any of the metallic elements that have an incomplete inner electron shell and that serve as transitional links between the most and the least electropositive in a series of elements. They are characterized by multiple valences, colored compounds, and the ability to form stable complex ions.

transition metal *n.* A transition element.

transition region *n.* A zone in a seed plant where the vascular tissue of the root changes into the vascular tissue of the stem.

transitive (trán'si-tív, -zí-) *adj.* 1. *Abbr. t., tr., trans. Grammar.* Expressing an action that is carried from the subject to the object; requiring a direct object to complete meaning. Used of a verb or verb construction. 2. Characterized by or involving transition. —**transitive** *n.* *Abbr. t., tr., trans. Grammar.* A transitive verb. [Late Latin *transitivus*, passing over, from *transitus*, past participle of *transire*, to go over. See *TRANSIENT*.] —**transitive-ly** *adv.* —**transitive-ness**, **transitivity** *n.*

transit lounge *n.* A waiting room in an airport used typically by international travelers on layovers.

transitory (trán'si-tór'è, -tór'è, trán'zì-) *adj.* Existing or lasting only a short time; short-lived or temporary: "the disorder of his life: the succession of cities, of transitory loves" (Carson McCullers). See *Synonyms at transient*. [Middle English *transitorie*, from Old French *transitoire*, from Late Latin *transitórius*, from Latin, having a passageway, from *transitus*, passage. See *TRANSIT*.] —**transitorily** *adv.* —**transitoriness** *n.*

Transjordan (tráns'jór'dán, -jór'dán, trán'zì-) See *Jordan*. —**Transjordanian** (-jór-dá'nē-ən) *adj.* & *n.*

Transkei (tráns-ká'í, -kí'í) An internally self-governing Black African homeland in southeast South Africa on the Indian Ocean coast. It was designated a semi-autonomous territory in 1963 and granted nominal independence in 1976. Umtata is the capital. Population, 2,400,000. —**Transkeian** *adj.* & *n.*

transl. *abbr.* 1. Translated. 2. Translation.

translate (tráns-lát', tránz-, tráns'lát', tránz'-) *v.* —**lat-ed**, —**lat-ing**, —**lates**. —*tr.* 1. To render in another language. 2. *a.* To put into simpler terms; explain or interpret. *b.* To express in different words; paraphrase. 3. *a.* To change from one form, function, or state to another; convert or transform: *translate ideas into reality*. *b.* To express in another medium. 4. To transfer from one place or condition to another. 5. To forward or retransmit (a telegraphic message). 6. *a.* Ecclesiastical. To transfer (a bishop) to another see. *b.* Theology. To convey to heaven without death. 7. Physics. To subject (a body) to translation. 8. Biology. To subject (messenger RNA) to translation. 9. Archaic. To enrapture. —*intr.* 1. *a.* To make a translation. *b.* To work as a translator. 2. To admit of translation. 3. To be changed or transformed in effect. Often used with *into* or *to*: "Today's low inflation and steady growth in household income translate into more purchasing power" (Thomas G. Exter). [Middle English *translaten*, from Old French *translater*, from Latin *translátus*, past participle of *transfere*, to transfer: *trans-*, *trans-* + *latus*, brought; see *tele-* in Appendix.] —**translat'able-ly**, **translat'able-ness** *n.* —**translat'able** *adj.*

translation (tráns-lá'shən, tránz-) *n.* *Abbr. tr., trans., transl.* 1. *a.* The act or process of translating, especially from one language into another. *b.* The state of being translated. 2. A translated version of a text. 3. Physics. Motion of a body in which every point of the body moves parallel to and the same distance as every other point of the body; nonrotational displacement. 4. Biology. The process by which messenger RNA directs the amino acid sequence of a growing polypeptide during protein synthesis. —**translat'ional** *adj.*

translator (tráns-lá'tór, tránz-, tráns'lá'tór, tránz'-) *n.* *Abbr. tr., trans.* 1. One that translates, especially one employed to render written works into another language. 2. An interpreter. —**translat'orial** (-lá-tór'è-əl, -tór'-) *adj.*

transliterate (tráns-lít'ə-rát', tránz-) *tr.v.* —**at-ed**, —**at-ing**, —**ates**. To represent (letters or words) in the corresponding characters of another alphabet. [*TRANS-* + Latin *littera*, *littera*, letter + *-ATE*.] —**translit'er-a'tion** *n.*

translocate (tráns-lō'kát', tránz-) *tr.v.* —**cat-ed**, —**cat-ing**, —**cates**. 1. To cause to change from one place or position to another; displace. 2. To transfer (a chromosomal segment) to a new position; cause to undergo translocation.

translocation (tráns'lō-ká'shən, tránz'-) *n.* 1. A change of location. 2. Genetics. *a.* A transfer of a chromosomal segment to a new position, especially on a nonhomologous chromosome. *b.* A chromosomal segment that is translocated.

translucent (tráns-lōó'sənt, tránz-) *adj.* 1. Transmitting light but causing sufficient diffusion to prevent perception of distinct images. 2. Clear; lucid. [Latin *translucēns*, *translucēt-*, present participle of *translucēre*, to shine through: *trans-*, *trans-* + *lucēre*, to shine; see *leuk-* in Appendix.] —**translu'cence**, **translu'cent-ly** *n.* —**translu'cent-ly** *adv.*

translunar (tráns'lōó'nər, tránz'-, tráns-lōó'-, tránz-) *adj.* Extending beyond the moon or the moon's orbit around Earth.

transmarine (tráns'mə-rén', tránz'-) *adj.* 1. Crossing the sea. 2. Beyond or coming from across the sea. [Latin *transmarinus*: *trans-*, *trans-* + *marinus*, of the sea; see *MARINE*.]

transmembrane (tráns-mém'brán, tránz-) *adj.* Passing or

transmigrates. 2. One in transit through a country on the way to the country in which one intends to settle.

transmigrate (tráns-mí'grát', tránz-) *intr.v.* —**grat-ed**, —**grat-ing**, —**grates**. 1. To migrate. 2. To pass into another body after death. Used of the soul. [Latin *transmigrāre*, *transmigrāt-*: *trans-*, *trans-* + *migrāre*, to migrate; see *MIGRATE*.] —**transmi'grator** *n.* —**transmi'grator-y** (-mí'grá-tór'è, -tór'è) *adj.*

transmigration (tráns'mí-grá'shən, tránz'-) *n.* 1. The act or process of transmigrating. 2. The passing of a soul into another body after death; reincarnation. —**transmi'gration-ism** *n.*

transmissible (tráns-mís'ə-bəl, tránz-) *adj.* That can be transmitted: *transmissible messages*; *transmissible signals*. —**transmis'sibil-i-ty** *n.*

transmission (tráns-mísh'ən, tránz-) *n.* 1. *a.* The act or process of transmitting. *b.* The fact of being transmitted. 2. Something, such as a message, that is transmitted. 3. An automotive assembly of gears and associated parts by which power is transmitted from the engine to a driving axle. Also called *gearbox*. 4. The sending of a signal, picture, or other information from a transmitter. [Latin *transmissiō*, *transmissiōn-*, a sending across, from *transmissus*, past participle of *transmittere*, to transmit. See *TRANSMIT*.] —**transmis'sive** (-mís'iv) *adj.*

transmissometer (tráns'mí-sóm'í-tər, tránz'-) *n.* A device used to measure transmission of light through a medium. [*TRANSMISS(ION)* + *-METER*.] —**transmis'som'e-try** *n.*

transmit (tráns-mít', tránz-) *v.* —**mit-ted**, —**mit-ting**, —**mits**. —*tr.* 1. To send from one person, thing, or place to another; convey. See *Synonyms at send*. 2. To cause to spread; pass on: *transmit an infection*. 3. To impart or convey to others by heredity or inheritance; hand down. 4. To pass along (news or information); communicate. 5. *a.* Electronics. To send (a signal), as by wire or radio. *b.* Physics. To cause (a disturbance) to propagate through a medium. 6. To convey (force or energy) from one part of a mechanism to another. —*intr.* To send out a signal. [Middle English *transmitten*, from Latin *transmittere*: *trans-*, *trans-* + *mittere*, to send.] —**transmit'table** *adj.*

transmittal (tráns-mít'əl, tránz-) *n.* The act or process of transmitting; a transmission.

transmittance (tráns-mít'ns, tránz-) *n.* 1. A transmission. 2. Physics. The ratio of the radiant energy transmitted to the total radiant energy incident on a given body.

transmitter (tráns-mít'ər, tránz-) *n.* 1. One that transmits: *a transmitter of disease*; *a transmitter of tall tales*. 2. *a.* An electronic device that generates and amplifies a carrier wave, modulates it with a meaningful signal derived from speech or other sources, and radiates the resulting signal from an antenna. *b.* The portion of a telephone that converts the incident sounds into electrical impulses that are conveyed to a remote receiver. *c.* A telegraphic sending instrument.

transmitter-receiver (tráns-mít'ər-rí-sē'vər, tránz-) *n.* An electronic device that both transmits and receives communications signals.

transmogri-fy (tráns-móg'rí-fí', tránz-) *tr.v.* —**fi-ed** (-fí'd), —**fi-ing**, —**fies** (-fíz'). To change into a different shape or form, especially one that is fantastic or bizarre. See *Synonyms at convert*. [Origin unknown.] —**transmog'rí-fi-ca'tion** (-fí-ká'shən) *n.*

transmontane (tráns-mōn'tán', tránz-, tráns'mōn'tán', tránz'-) *adj.* Tramontane. [Latin *transmontānus*. See *TRAMONTANE*.]

transmundane (tráns'mūn-dān', tránz'-, tráns'mūn'dān', tránz-) *adj.* Existing or extending beyond the physical world.

transmutation (tráns'myōō-tā'shən, tránz'-) *n.* 1. *a.* The act or an instance of transmuting; transformation. *b.* The state of being transmuted. 2. Physics. Transformation of one element into another by one or a series of nuclear reactions. 3. The supposed conversion of base metals into gold or silver in alchemy. —**transmu'ta'tional**, **transmut'a-tive** (-myōō'ta-tív) *adj.*

transmute (tráns-myōót', tránz-) *v.* —**mut-ed**, —**mut-ing**, —**mutes**. —*tr.* To change from one form, nature, substance, or state into another; transform: "the tendency to transmute what has become customary into what has been divinely ordained" (Suzanne LaFollette). See *Synonyms at convert*. —*intr.* To undergo transmutation. [Middle English *transmuten*, from Latin *transmutāre*: *trans-*, *trans-* + *mutāre*, to change; see *mut-* in Appendix.] —**transmut'a-bil-i-ty**, **transmut'a-ble-ness** *n.* —**transmut'a-ble** *adj.* —**transmut'a-bly** *adv.* —**transmut'er** *n.*

transnational (tráns-násh'ə-nəl, tránz-) *adj.* 1. Reaching beyond or transcending national boundaries: "the transnational ramifications of terror networks" (Emanuel Litvinoff). 2. Relating to or involving several nations or nationalities: *transnational organizations*.

transoceanic (tráns'ō-shē-ān'ík, tránz'-) *adj.* 1. Situated beyond or on the other side of the ocean. 2. Spanning or crossing the ocean.

transom (trán'səm) *n.* 1. *a.* A horizontal crosspiece over a door or between a door and a window above it. *b.* A small hinge window above a door or another window. 2. A horizontal dividing bar of wood or stone in a window. 3. A lintel. 4. Nautical. A bar of wood or stone in a window. 5. The sternpost of a



transom