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(an dental miscalculation of the distance he had to jump).

A casual act or event is one that is random or unpremeditated (a casual conversation with her son's teacher in the grocery store), in which the role that chance plays is not always clear.

Something that is incidental may or may not involve chance; it typically refers to what is secondary or nonessential (incidental expenses in the budget) or what occurs without design or regularity (incidental lighting throughout the garden).

Adventitious also implies the lack of an essential relationship, referring to something that is a mere random occurrence (adventitious circumstances that led to victory).

In contrast, contingent points to something that is entirely dependent on an uncertain event for its existence or occurrence (travel plans that are contingent upon the weather).

Fortuitous refers to chance events of a fortunate nature; it is about as far as one can get from accidental (a fortuitous meeting with the candidate outside the men's room just before the press conference).

ac-clident-prone ▶adj. tending to be involved in a greater than average number of accidents.

ac-ci-die /'æksɪdi/ ▶n. acedia. ▶Middle English: via Old French from medieval Latin *accidia*, alteration of *ACEDIA*. Obsolete after the 16th cent., the term was revived in the late 19th cent.

ac-cip-i-ter /'ækspɪtər/ ▶n. *Ornithology* a hawk of a group distinguished by short, broad wings and relatively long legs, adapted for fast flight in wooded country. • *Accipiter* and related genera, family Accipitridae: numerous species, including the goshawk. ▶late 19th cent.: Latin, literally 'hawk, bird of prey.'

ac-cip-i-trine /'ækspɪtrɪn/; -,trɪn/ ▶adj. [attrib.] *Ornithology* of or relating to birds of a family that includes most diurnal birds of prey other than falcons, New World vultures, and the osprey. • Family Accipitridae; treated as a subfamily (Accipitrinae) in this sense when the osprey is included in this family. ▶mid 19th cent.: from French, from Latin *accipiter* 'bird of prey.'

ac-claim /ə'klæm/ ▶v. [trans.] (usu. be acclaimed) praise enthusiastically and publicly: the conference was acclaimed as a considerable success | [trans.] he was acclaimed a great painter. See note at PRAISE.

▶n. enthusiastic and public praise: she has won acclaim for her commitment to democracy. ▶early 17th cent. (in the sense 'express approval': from Latin *acclamare*, from *ad-* 'to' + *clamare* 'to shout'). The spelling has been influenced by association with CLAIM. Current senses date from the 17th cent.

ac-cla-mation /,ækle'mæʃən/ ▶n. loud and enthusiastic approval, typically to welcome or honor someone or something: the tackle brought the fans to their feet in acclamation | the president was again greeted by the acclamations of all present. ▶mid 16th cent.: from Latin *acclamatio*(n), from *acclamare* 'shout at,' later 'shout in approval' (see ACCLAIM).

▶PHRASE □ by acclamation 1 (of election, agreement, etc.) by overwhelming vocal approval and without ballot. 2 *Canadian* (of election) by virtue of being the sole candidate.

ac-cl-i-mate /'ækliːmət/; ə'klɪmɪt/ ▶v. [intrans.] (usu. be acclimated) become accustomed to a new climate or to new conditions: it will take a few days to get acclimated to the altitude. ■ *Biology* respond physiologically or behaviorally to a change in a single environmental factor: trees may acclimate to high CO₂ levels by reducing the number of stomata. Compare with ACCLIMATE. ■ [trans.] *Botany & Horticulture* harden off (a plant). ▶late 18th cent.: from French *acclimater*, from *a-* (from Latin *ad* 'to, at') + *climat* 'climate.' —**ac-cl-i-ma-tion** /,ækle'mæʃən/ n.

ac-cl-i-ma-tize /ə'klɪməˌtɪz/ ▶v. [intrans.] acclimate: they acclimated themselves before ascending Everest. ■ *Biology* respond physiologically or behaviorally to changes in a complex of environmental factors. Compare with ACCLIMATE. ■ [trans.] *Botany & Horticulture* harden off (a plant). ▶mid 19th cent.: from French *acclimater* 'acclimatize' + *-IZE*. —**ac-cl-i-ma-ti-za-tion** /ə'klɪmətə'zæʃən/ n.

ac-cliv-i-ty /ə'klɪvɪti/ ▶n. (pl. -ties) an upward slope. ▶early 17th cent.: from Latin *acclivitas*, from *acclivus*, from *ad-* 'toward' + *divus* 'a slope.' —**ac-cliv-i-tous** /-itəs/ adj.

sword at the bestowing of a knighthood. ▶early 17th cent.: from French, from Provençal *acolada*, literally 'embrace around the neck (when bestowing knighthood),' from Latin *ad-* 'at, to' + *collum* 'neck.'

ac-com-mo-date /ə'kɑːməˌdɑːt/ ▶v. [trans.] 1 (of physical space, esp. a building) provide lodging or sufficient space for: the cabins accommodate up to 6 people. 2 fit in with the wishes or needs of: any language must accommodate new concepts. ■ [intrans.] (accommodate to) adapt to: making consumers accommodate to the realities of today's marketplace. ▶mid 16th cent.: from Latin *accommodat-* 'made fitting,' from the verb *accommodare*, from *ad-* 'to' + *commodus* 'fitting.' —**ac-com-mo-da-tive** /-,dɑːtɪv/ adj.

ac-com-mo-dat-ing /ə'kɑːməˌdɑːtɪŋ/ ▶adj. fitting in with someone's wishes or demands in a helpful way. —**ac-com-mo-dat-ing-ly** adv.

ac-com-mo-da-tion /ə'kɑːməˌdɑːʃən/ ▶n. 1 an action of accommodating or the process of being accommodated. ■ (usu. accommodations) a room, group of rooms, or building in which someone may live or stay: the cost includes airfare and hotel accommodations. ■ (accommodations) lodging; room and board: the company offers a number of guesthouse accommodations in Cape Cod. ■ the available space for occupants in a building, vehicle, or vessel: there was lifeboat accommodation for 1,178 people. ■ the provision of a room or lodging: the building is used exclusively for the accommodation of guests. 2 a convenient arrangement; a settlement or compromise: management was seeking an accommodation with labor. ■ the process of adapting or adjusting to someone or something: accommodation to a separate political entity was not possible. ■ the automatic adjustment of the focus of the eye by flattening or thickening of the lens. ▶early 17th cent.: from Latin *accommodatio*(n), from *accommodare* 'fit one thing to another' (see ACCOMMODATE).

ac-com-mo-da-tion-ist /ə'kɑːməˌdɑːʃənɪst/ ▶n. a person who seeks compromise with an opposing point of view, typically a political one.

ac-com-mo-da-tion-lad-der ▶n. a ladder or stairway up the side of a ship allowing access, esp. to and from a small boat, or from a dock.

ac-com-pa-ni-ment /ə'kæmp(ə)nɪmənt/ ▶n. 1 a musical part that supports or partners a solo instrument, voice, or group: she sang to a guitar accompaniment | sonatas for piano with violin accompaniment. ■ music played to complement or as background to an activity: lush string accompaniments to romantic scenes in movies. 2 something that is supplementary to or complements something else, typically food: sugar snap peas make a delicious accompaniment for salmon. ▶early 18th cent.: from French *accompagnement*, from *accompagner* 'accompany.'

▶PHRASE □ to the accompaniment of 1 with accompanying or background music or sound from: we filed out to the accompaniment of the organ. 2 with another event happening at the same time as: the dam was completed to the accompaniment of numerous scandals.

ac-com-pa-nist /ə'kæmpənɪst/ ▶n. a person who provides a musical accompaniment to another musician or to a singer.

ac-com-pa-ny /ə'kæmp(ə)nɪ/ ▶v. (-nies, -nied) [trans.] 1 go somewhere with (someone) as a companion or escort: the two sisters were to accompany us to New York | he was at the banquet accompanied by his daughter. 2 (usu. be accompanied) be present or occur at the same time as (something else): the illness is often accompanied by nausea. ■ provide (something) as a complement or addition to something else: home-cooked ham accompanied by brown bread. 3 play a musical accompaniment for. ▶late Middle English: from Old French *accompagner*, from *a-* (from Latin *ad* 'to, at') + *compagne*, from Old French *compaignon* 'companion.' The spelling change was due to association with COMPANY.

ac-com-plice /ə'kæmplɪs/ ▶n. a person who helps another commit a crime. ▶mid 16th cent.: alteration (probably by association with ACCOMPANY) of Middle English *complice* 'an associate,' via Old French from late Latin *complex*, *complic-* 'allied,' from *com-* 'together' + the root of *plicare* 'to fold.'

ac-com-plish /ə'kæmplɪʃ/ ▶v. [trans.] achieve or complete successfully: the planes accomplished their mission. ▶late Middle English: from Old French *accompliss-*, lengthened stem of *acomplir*, based on Latin *ad-* 'to'

ac-com-plish-ment /ə'kæmplɪʃmənt/ ▶n. something that has been achieved successfully: the reduction of inflation was a remarkable accomplishment. ■ the successful achievement of a task: the accomplishment of planned objectives. ■ an activity that a person can do well, typically as a result of study or practice: long-distance running was another of her accomplishments. ■ skill or ability in an activity: a poet of considerable accomplishment.

ac-cord /ə'kɔːrd/ ▶v. 1 [trans.] give or grant someone (power, status, or recognition): the powers accorded to the head of state | [with two objs.] the young man had accorded her little notice. 2 [intrans.] (accord with) (of a concept or fact) be harmonious or consistent with.

▶n. an official agreement or treaty. ■ agreement or harmony: the government and the rebels are in accord on one point | function and form in harmonious accord. ▶Old English, from Old French *acorder* 'reconcile, be of one mind,' from Latin *ad-* 'to' + *cor, cord-* 'heart'; influenced by CONCORD.

▶PHRASES □ in accord with according to. □ of its own accord without outside intervention: the rash may go away of its own accord. □ of one's own accord voluntarily: he would not seek treatment of his own accord. □ with one accord in a united way.

ac-cord-ance /ə'kɔːdnəns/ ▶n. (in phrase in accordance with) in a manner conforming with: the product is disposed of in accordance with federal regulations. ▶Middle English: from Old French *acordance*, from *acorder* 'bring to an agreement' (see ACCORD).

ac-cord-ant /ə'kɔːdrənt/ ▶adj. [predic.] archaic agreeing or compatible: I found the music accordant with the words of the service. ▶Middle English: from Old French *accordant*, from *acorder* 'bring to an agreement' (see ACCORD).

ac-cord-ing /ə'kɔːrdɪŋ/ ▶adv. 1 (according to) as stated by or in: the outlook for investors is not bright, according to financial experts. ■ in a manner corresponding or conforming to: cook the rice according to the instructions. ■ in proportion or relation to: salary will be fixed according to experience. 2 (according as) depending on whether.

ac-cord-ing-ly /ə'kɔːrdɪŋli/ ▶adv. 1 in a way that is appropriate to the particular circumstances: we have to discover what his plans are and act accordingly. 2 [sentence adverb] consequently; therefore: There was no breach of the rules. Accordingly, there will be no disciplinary inquiry.

ac-cord-ion /ə'kɔːrdɪən/ ▶n. a portable musical instrument with metal reeds blown by bellows, played by means of keys and buttons: [as adj.] an accordion player. ■ [as adj.] folding like the bellows of an accordion: an accordion pleat. ▶mid 19th cent.: from German *Akkordion*, from Italian *accordare* 'to tune.' —**ac-cord-ion-ist** /-nɪst/ n.



accordion

ac-cord-i-on sched-ul-ing ▶n. the practice of continually adjusting the work schedule of part-time or temporary workers to accommodate a company's changing labor requirements.

ac-cost /ə'kɔːst/; ə'kæst/ ▶v. [trans.] approach and address (someone) boldly or aggressively: reporters accosted him in the street. ■ approach (someone) with hostility or harmful intent: he was accosted by a thief, demanding his money or his life. ■ approach and address (someone) with sexual intent: a man tried to accost the girl on her way to school. ▶late 16th cent. (originally in the sense 'lie or go alongside'): from French *accoster*, from Italian *accostare*, from Latin *ad-* 'to' + *costa* 'rib, side.'

ac-cou-che-ment /,ækʊʃmənt/ ▶n. archaic the action of giving birth to a baby. ▶late 18th cent.: French, from *accoucher* 'act as midwife,' from *a-* (from Latin *ad* 'to, at') + *coucher* 'put to bed' (see COUCH).

ac-cou-cheur /,ækʊʃəʊ/ ▶n. a male midwife. ▶mid 18th cent.: French, from *accoucher* (see ACCOUCHEMENT).

ac-count /ə'kaʊnt/ ▶n. 1 a report or description of an event or experience: a detailed account of what has been achieved. ■ an interpretation or rendering of a piece of music: a lively account of Offenbach's score. 2 (abbr.: acct.) a record or statement of financial expenditure or receipts relating to a particular period or pur-