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ingredient of mortar and concrete; also: any mixture used for a similar purpose. **b**: CONCRETE. **2**: a binding element or agency; as a: a substance to make objects adhere to each other. **b**: something serving to unite firmly (justice is the ~ that holds a political community together — R. M. Hutchins). **3**: CEMENTUM. **4**: a plastic composition made esp. of zinc or silica for filling dental cavities. **5**: the fine-grained groundmass or glass of a porphyry.

cement vt (14c) **1**: to unite or make firm by or as if by cement. **2**: to overlay with concrete. **vi**: to become cemented — **ce-menter** n

ce-ment-a-tion \s'e-men-ta-shən\ n (1594) **1**: a process of surrounding a solid with a powder and heating the whole so that the solid is changed by chemical combination with the powder. **2**: the act or process of cementing; the state of being cemented.

ce-ment-ite \s'e-men-tī-tē\ n [coined] (1888) : a hard brittle iron car-bide Fe₃C that occurs in steel, cast iron, and iron-carbon alloys.

ce-ment-i-tious \s'e-men-ti-shəs\ adj (ca. 1828) : having the properties of cement.

ce-ment-um \s'e-men-təm\ n [NL, fr. L. *caementum*] (1842) : a specialized external bony layer covering the dentin of the part of a tooth normally within the gum — see 1000/111 illustration.

ce-ment-er-y \s'e-men-tēr-ē\ n, pl **ter-ies** [ME *cimtery*, fr. MF *cimtiere*, fr. LL *coemeterium*, fr. Gk *kōimēterion* sleeping chamber, burial place, fr. *kōimain* to put to sleep; akin to Gk *keisthai* to lie, Skt *śe* he lies] (15c) : a burial ground.

ce-na-cle \s'e-ni-kəl\ n [L. *caenaculum* the room where Christ and his disciples had the Last Supper, fr. L. top story, prob. fr. *caena* dinner] (1849) : a retreat house, esp. one for Roman Catholic women directed by nuns of the Society of Our Lady of the Cenacle.

ce-ment-um *comb form* [Gk *kaímēn*, fr. L. *caementum*] (1842) : recent — in names of geologic periods (Eocene).

ce-no-bit-ic \s'e-nə-bit-ē\, esp. Brit *'s'e-nə-bit-ē* n [LL *caenobita*, fr. *caenobium* monastery, fr. LEP *caenobium* + *bita* + *bita* + *bita* — *bita* life — more at QUICK] (ca. 1500) : a member of a religious group living together in a monastic community — **ce-no-bit-ic** \s'e-nə-bit-ē\, *spes* n

ce-no-spec-ies \s'e-nə-spē-(-)hēz, -ē\, (-)hēz\ n [coen- + *species*] (1922) : a group of related biological taxonomic units capable by reason of geologic history of essentially free gene interchange.

ce-no-taph \s'e-nə-tāf, -tāf\ n [F *cenotaph*, fr. L. *cenotaphium*, fr. Gk *kenotaphion*, fr. *kenos* empty + *taphos* tomb] (1603) : a tomb or a monument erected in honor of a person or group of persons whose remains are elsewhere.

ce-no-tic \s'e-nə-tēk\ n [MexSp, fr. Yucatec *ts'ono'*] (1841) : a deep sink-hole in limestone with a pool at the bottom that is found esp. in Yucatan.

ce-no-zo-ic \s'e-nə-zō-ik, -ē\, (-)zō-ik\ n [Gk *kainos* + E. *-zoic*] (1854) : of, relating to, or being an era of geological history that extends from the beginning of the Tertiary period to the present time and is marked by a rapid evolution of mammals and birds and of angiosperms and esp. grasses and by little change in the invertebrates; also: relating to the corresponding system of rocks — see GEOLOGIC TIME table — **ce-no-zo-ic** n

ce-nse \s'e(n)s\ vt **cen-sed**; **cen-sing** [ME, prob. short for *encensere* to incense, fr. MF *encenser*, fr. LL *incensare*, fr. *incensum* incense] (14c) : to perfume esp. with a censor.

cen-ser \s'e(n)s-ər\ n (13c) : a vessel for burning incense; esp.: a covered incense burner swung on chains in a religious ritual.

cen-sor \s'e(n)s-ər\ n [L, fr. *cen-sere* to give as one's opinion, assess, perf. akin to Skt *śamati* he praises] (1531) **1**: one of two magistrates of early Rome acting as census takers, assessors, and inspectors of morals and conduct. **2**: one who supervises conduct and morals; as: a: an official who examines materials (as publications or films) for objectionable matter. b: an official (as in time of war) who reads communications (as letters) and deletes material considered sensitive or harmful. **3**: a hypothetical psychic agency that represses unacceptable notions before they reach consciousness — **cen-sor-ial** \s'e(n)s-ər-ē-əl\, *adj*

cen-sor vt **cen-sored**; **cen-sor-ing** \s'e(n)s-ər-īŋ\, *adj* (1882) : to examine in order to suppress or delete anything considered objectionable.

cen-sor-i-ous \s'e(n)s-ər-ē-əs, -sər-ē-əs\ adj [L. *cen-sorius* of a censor, fr. *cen-sor*] (1536) : marked by or given to censor. **syn** see CRITICAL — **cen-sor-i-ous-ly** adv — **cen-sor-i-ous-ness** n

cen-sor-ship \s'e(n)s-ər-ē-ʃɪp\ n (ca. 1591) **1**: a: the institution, system, or practice of censoring. **b**: the actions or practices of censors; esp.: censorial control exercised repressively. **2**: the office, power, or term of a Roman censor. **3**: exclusion from consciousness by the psychic censor.

cen-sur-able \s'e(n)s-ər-ē-ə-bəl\, *adj* (1635) : deserving or open to censure.

cen-sure \s'e(n)s-ər\ n [L. *cen-sura*, fr. *cen-sere*] (14c) **1**: a judgment involving condemnation. **2** *archaic*: OPINION, JUDGMENT. **3**: the act of blaming or condemning sternly. **4**: an official reprimand.

cen-sure vt **cen-sured**; **cen-sur-ing** \s'e(n)s-ər-ē-īŋ\ (1587) **1** *obs* ESTIMATE, JUDGE. **2**: to find fault with and criticize as blameworthy. **syn** see CRITICIZE — **cen-sur-er** \s'e(n)s-ər-ər\ n

cen-sus \s'e(n)s-əs\ n [L, fr. *cen-sere*] (1634) **1**: a count of the population and a property evaluation in early Rome. **2**: a usu. complete enumeration of a population; *spec*: a periodic governmental enumeration of population. **3**: COUNT, TALLY — **cen-sus** vt

cent \s'e(n)s\ n [MF, hundred, fr. L. *centum* — more at HUNDRED] (1782) **1**: a monetary unit equal to 1/100 of a basic unit of value — see *bill*, *dollar*, *golden*, *leone*, *liangren*, *lira*, *pound*, *rand*, *rupic*, *shilling* at 1000/111 table. **2**: a coin, token, or note representing one cent. **3**: the cent of the People's Republic of China.

cen-tal \s'e(n)s-təl\ n [L. *centum* + E. *-al* (as in *quintal*)] (1870) chiefly Brit : 100 LBS WEIGHT.

cen-taur \s'e(n)-tɔr\ n [ME, fr. L. *Centaurus*, fr. Gk *Centaurus*] (14c) : any of a race of creatures fabled to be half man and half horse and to live in the mountains of Thessaly.

cen-tau-rea \s'e(n)-tɔr-ē-ə\ n [NL, genus name, fr. ML] (ca. 1829) : any of a large genus (*Centaurium*) of composite herbs (as knapweed) including several cultivated for their showy heads of tubular florets.

Cent-aur-us \s'e(n)-tɔr-əs\ n [L. (gen. *Centauri*)] : a southern constellation between the Southern Cross and Hydra.

cen-tau-ry \s'e(n)-tɔr-ē\ n, pl **-ries** [ME *centaura*, fr. MF *centaurie*, fr. ML *centaura*, fr. L. *centaurium*, fr. Gk *centaurion*, fr. *Centaurus*] (14c) **1**: any of a genus (*Centaurium*) of low herbs of the gentian family; esp.: an Old World herb (*C. umbellatum*) formerly used as a tonic. **2**: an herb (*Sabatia angularis*) of the eastern U.S. closely related to centaury.

cen-tau-ry \s'e(n)-tɔr-ē\, *adj* (1883) — see *boliviano*, *colón*, *cordoba*, *lempira*, *peso*, *quetzal*, *sol*, *sucre* at MONEY table.

cen-tau-ry \s'e(n)-tɔr-ē\, *adj* (1920) — see *crucero*, *escudo*, *metal* at MONEY table.

cen-te-nar-i-an \s'e(n)-tə-mer-ē-ən\ n (ca. 1841) : one that is 100 years old or older — **cen-te-nar-i-an** *adj*.

cen-te-nar-y \s'e(n)-tə-ner-ē\, *esp* Brit *'s'e(n)-tə-ner-ē* n, pl **-ries** [LL *centenarium*, fr. L. *centenarius* of a hundred, fr. *centeni* one hundred each, fr. *centum* hundred — more at HUNDRED] (1788) : **cen-tennial** — **cen-te-nar-y** *adj*.

cen-te-ni-al \s'e(n)-tē-nē-əl\ n [L. *centum* + E. *-ennial* (as in *biennial*)] (1876) : a 100th anniversary or its celebration — **cen-te-ni-al** *adj* — **cen-te-ni-ally** \s'e(n)-tē-nē-əl\, *adv*.

cen-ter \s'e(n)-tər, -sər\ n [ME *centro*, fr. MF, fr. L. *centrum*, fr. Gk *kentron* sharp point, center of a circle, fr. *kentron* to prick, prob. akin to OHG *kunza* pointed] (14c) **1**: a: the point around which a circle or sphere is described; *broadly*: a point that is related to a geometrical figure in such a way that for any point on the figure there is another point on the figure such that a straight line joining the two points is bisected by the original point — called also *center of symmetry*. **b**: the center of the circle inscribed in a regular polygon. **2**: a: a point, area, person, or thing that is most important or pivotal in relation to an indicated activity, interest, or condition (a railroad ~) (the ~ of the controversy). **b**: a source from which something originates (a propaganda ~); *c*: a group of nerve cells having a common function (respiratory ~); *d*: a region of concentrated population (an urban ~); *e*: a facility providing a place for a particular activity or service (a days care ~); *f*: the middle part (as of the forehead or a stage). **3** *often cap*: (1) : a grouping of political figures holding moderate views esp. between those of conservatives and liberals. (2) : the views of such politicians. (3) : the adherents of such views. **4**: a: a player occupying a middle position on a team; as: (1) : the football player in the middle of a line who passes the ball between his legs to a back to start a play. (2) : the tallest player on a basketball team who usually plays near the basket. **b**: CENTER FIELD. **5**: a: either of two tapered rods which support work in a lathe or grinding machine and about or with which the work revolves. **b**: a hand or foot (as a shawl) for receiving such a center — **cen-ter-less** \s'e(n)-ləs\, *adj*.

cen-ter vt **cen-tered**; **cen-ter-ing** \s'e(n)-tər-īŋ, -sər-īŋ\, *vi* (1610) **1**: to place or fix at or around center or central area or position (to ~ the picture on the wall). **2**: to give a central focus or basis (to ~ her hopes on her son) (the plot was ~ed on espionage). **3**: to adjust (as lenses) so that the axes coincide. **4**: a: to pass a ball or puck from either side toward the middle of the playing area. **b**: to hand or pass (as a football) backward between one's legs to a back to start a down. **vi**: to have a specified center; **FOCUS**.

usage The intransitive verb *center* is most commonly used with the prepositions *in*, *on*, *at*, and *around*. *At* appears to be favored in mathematical contexts; the others are found in a broad range of contexts. *Center around*, a standard idiom, has often been objected to as illogical. The logic on which the objections are based is irrelevant, since *center around* is an idiom and idioms have their own logic. *Center on* is currently more common in edited prose, and *revolve around* and similar verbs are available if you want to avoid *center around*.

cen-ter-board \s'e(n)-tər,-bɔrd, -sər-,-bɔrd\ n (1867) : a retractable keel used esp. in sailboats.

cen-tered \s'e(n)-tərd, -sər-əd\, *adj* (ca. 1893) **1**: having a center — often used in combination (a dark-centered celloflower). **2**: having a center of curvature — often used in combination (a 3-centered arch). **3**: emotionally stable and secure — **cen-tered-ness** \s'e(n)-tər-əd-ness\, *n*.

cen-ter field n (1857) **1**: the position of the player for defending center field. **2**: the part of the baseball outfield between right and left field — **cen-ter fielder** n.

cen-ter-fold \s'e(n)-tər,-fɔld, -sər-əf\ n (1952) **1**: a foldout that is the center spread of a magazine. **2**: a picture (as of a nude) on a center-fold; also: a model featured in such a picture.

cen-ter-line \s'e(n)-tər,-līn, -dīn\ n (1807) : a real or imaginary line that is equidistant from the surface or sides of something.

cen-ter of curv-ature (ca. 1856) : the center of the circle whose center lies on the concave side of a curve on the normal to a given point of the curve and whose radius is equal to the radius of curvature at that point.

cen-ter of grav-ity (1659) **1**: CENTER OF MASS. **2**: the point at which the entire weight of a body may be considered as concentrated so that if supported at this point the body would remain in equilibrium in any position. **3**: CENTER 2a.

cen-ter of mass (1879) : the point in a body or system of bodies at which the whole mass may be considered as concentrated.

cen-ter-piece \s'e(n)-tər,-pi:s\ n (1803) **1**: an object occupying a central position; esp.: an adornment in the center of a table. **2**: one that is of central importance or interest in a larger whole.



censor

