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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.

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

ce-ment-a-tion (Vse-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 (Vse-men-tīt) *n* [coenem] (1888): a hard brittle iron car-bide Fe₃C that occurs in steel, cast iron, and iron-carbon alloys.

ce-ment-i-tious (Vse-men-ti-shəs) *adj* (ca. 1828): having the properties of cement.

ce-ment-um (Vse-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 TOOTH illustration.

ce-met-ery (Vse-mə-ter-ē) *n*, *pl* **ter-ies** [ME *cimetery*, fr. MF *cimetiere*, fr. LL *coemeterium*, fr. Gk *kōimēterion* sleeping chamber, burial place, fr. *kōimain* to put to sleep; akin to Gk *kesthai* to lie, Skt *śeta* he lies] (15c): a burial ground.

ce-na-cle (Vse-ni-kəl) *n* [LL *cenaculum* the room where Christ and his disciples had the Last Supper, fr. L. top story, prob. fr. *ce-na* dinner] (1859): a retreat house, esp. one for Roman Catholic women directed by nuns of the Society of Our Lady of the Cenacle.

ce-nt *adj* comb form [Gk *katē* down, more at RECENT]: re-cent — in names of geologic periods (Eocene).

ce-no-bit-ic (Vse-nə-bit, esp. Brit 'sɛn) *n* [LL *coenobita*, fr. *coenobium* monastery, fr. LEP *coenobium* + *bitos* + *bitos* life — more at QUICK] (ca. 1500): a member of a religious group living together in a monastic community. — **ce-no-bit-ic** (Vse-nə-bit-ik, 'sɛn) *adj*.

ce-no-spec-ies (Vse-nə-spē-ʃhēz, 'se-, -ʃhēz) *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 (Vse-nə-təf, -təf) *n* [F *cenotaphie*, 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 (Vse-nə-tik) *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 (Vse-nə-zō-ik, -sə) *adj* [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 (Vse-n) *vt* **ensed**; **ce-nsing** [ME, prob. short for *encensere* to incense, fr. MF *encenser*, fr. LL *incensare*, fr. *incensum* incense] (14c): to perfume esp. with a censor.

ce-nser (Vse-n-sər) *n* (13c): a vessel for burning incense; esp.: a covered incense burner swung on chains in a religious ritual.

ce-n-sor (Vse-n-sər) *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. — **ce-n-sor-ial** (Vse-n-sər-ē-əl, 'sər) *adj*.

ce-n-sor *vt* **cen-sored**; **ce-n-sor-ing** (Vse-n-ti-sə-riŋ, 'sɛn-sər-riŋ) (1882): to examine in order to suppress or delete anything considered objectionable.

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

ce-n-sor-ship (Vse-n-ti-sər-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.

ce-n-sur-able (Vse-n-ti-sər-ə-bəl) *adj* (1635): deserving or open to censure.

ce-n-sure (Vse-n-ti-sər) *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.

ce-n-sure *vt* **cen-sured**; **ce-n-sur-ing** (Vse-n-ti-sər-ə-riŋ) (1587). **1** *obs* ESTIMATE; JUDGE. **2**: to find fault with and criticize as blameworthy. **syn** see CRITICIZE. — **ce-n-sur-er** (Vse-n-ti-sər-ər) *n*.

ce-n-sus (Vse-n-ti-səs) *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. — **ce-n-sus** *vt*.

ce-nt (Vse-n) *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 BIR; *ollar*, *gulden*, *leone*, *liangren*, *lira*, *pound*, *rand*, *rupic*, *shilling* at MONEY table. **2**: a coin, token, or note representing one cent. **3**: the cent of the People's Republic of China.

ce-n-tal (Vse-n-təl) *n* [L *centum* + E-*tal* (as in *quintal*)] (1870) chiefly Brit: **1**: HUNDREDWEIGHT.

ce-n-taur (Vse-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.

ce-n-tau-rea (Vse-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.

ce-n-tau-ri-us (Vse-n-tɔr-ē-əs) *n* [L (gen. *Centaurii*)]: a southern constellation between the Southern Cross and Hydra.

ce-n-tau-ry (Vse-n-tɔr-ē) *n*, *pl* **-ries** [ME *centaure*, fr. MF *centaure*, fr. ML *centaurea*, 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.

ce-n-taw-vo (Vse-n-tə-və) *n*, *pl* **-vos** [Sp. lit., hundredth, fr. *cento* hundred, fr. L *centum*] (1883). — see *boliviano*, *colón*, *cordoba*, *lempira*, *peso*, *quetzal*, *sol*, *sucro* at MONEY table.

ce-n-taw-vo (Vse-n-tə-və) *n*, *pl* **-vos** [Pg, fr. Sp] (1920). — see *crucero*, *escudo*, *metal* at MONEY table.

ce-n-te-nar-i-an (Vse-n-tə-mer-ē-ən) *n* (ca. 1841): one that is 100 years old or older. — **ce-n-te-nar-i-an** *adj*.

ce-n-te-nar-y (Vse-n-tə-nər-ē) *n*, *pl* **-ries** [LL *centenarium*, fr. L *centenarius* of a hundred, fr. *centeni* one hundred each, fr. *centum* hundred — more at HUNDRED] (1788): **CE-N-TEN-AR-IAL**. — **ce-n-te-nar-y** *adj*.

ce-n-te-n-ial (Vse-n-tə-nē-əl) *n* [L *centum* + E-*ennial* (as in *biennial*)] (1876): a 100th anniversary or its celebration. — **ce-n-te-n-ial** *adj*. — **ce-n-te-n-ial-ly** (Vse-n-tə-nē-əl) *adv*.

ce-n-ter (Vse-n-tər, 'sɛ-nər) *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 *hantuz* 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 ~); **3**: **a**: the middle part (as of the forehead or a stage). **b** *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 tool for receiving such work (as a shaft) for receiving such a center. — **ce-n-ter-less** (Vse-n-tə-les) *adj*.

ce-n-ter *vb* **centered**; **ce-n-ter-ing** (Vse-n-tə-riŋ, 'sɛ-nər-riŋ) *vt* (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 (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*.

ce-n-ter-board (Vse-n-tər-bɔrd, 'sɛ-nər-, -bɔrd) *n* (1867): a retractable keel used esp. in sailboats.

ce-n-tered (Vse-n-tərd, 'sɛ-nərd) *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. — **ce-n-tered-ness** (Vse-n-tərd-ness) *n*.

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

ce-n-ter-fold (Vse-n-tər-fəld, 'sɛ-nər-ə) *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.

ce-n-ter-line (Vse-n-tər-līn, -līn) *n* (1807): a real or imaginary line that is equidistant from the surface or sides of something.

ce-n-ter of curv-a-ture (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.

ce-n-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.

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

ce-n-ter-piece (Vse-n-tə-pēs) *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.

ce-n-ter-piece *n* [L *centum* + E-*tal* (as in *quintal*)] (1870) chiefly Brit: **1**: HUNDREDWEIGHT.



censor

