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R.J. Reynolds Vanor

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superstructure | supra-

**superstructure** *n.* **1** the part of a building above its foundations. **2** a structure built on top of something else. **3** a concept or idea based on others. □ **superstructural** *adj.*

**supertanker** *n.* a very large tanker ship.

**supertax** *n.* a higher rate of tax on incomes above a certain level.

**supervene** *v.intr.* occur as an interruption or a change. [from Latin *superventire* 'to come on top of'] □ **supervenient** *adj.* **supervention** *n.*

**supervise** *v.tr.* superintend, oversee. [based on medieval Latin *supervisus* 'surveyed'] □ **supervision** *n.* **supervisor** *n.* **supervisory** *adj.*

**superwoman** *n.* (pl. **-women**) *colloq.* a woman of exceptional strength or ability.

**supine** *adj.* **1** lying face upwards (cf. *PRONE* 1a). **2** inert, indolent. [from Latin *supinus* 'turned backward'] □ **supinely** *adv.* **supineness** *n.*

**supper** *n.* an evening meal, esp. a light or informal one. □ **sing for one's supper** do something in return for a benefit. [from Old French *super*]

**supplant** *v.tr.* dispossess and take the place of, esp. by underhand means. [from Latin *supplantare* 'to trip up'] □ **supplanter** *n.*

**supple** *adj.* (**suppler, supplest**) flexible, pliant. [from Latin *supplex* 'submissive'] □ **suppleness** *n.*

**supplely** *var.* of **SUPPLY**<sup>2</sup>.

**supplement** *n.* **1** a thing or part added to remedy deficiencies (*dietary supplement*). **2** a part added to a book etc. to provide further information. **3** a separate section, esp. a colour magazine, added to a newspaper etc. **4** an additional charge payable. ● *v.tr.* provide a supplement for. [from Latin *supplementum*] □ **supplemental** *adj.* **supplementally** *adv.* **supplementation** *n.*

**supplementary** *adj.* forming or serving as a supplement; additional. □ **supplementarily** *adv.*

**supplementary benefit** *n. hist.* (in the UK) a weekly allowance formerly paid by the state to those with an income below a certain level, now replaced by **INCOME SUPPORT**.

**suppliant** /sup-li-ənt/ ● *adj.* **1** supplicating. **2** expressing supplication. ● *n.* a supplicating person. [French, literally 'beseeching'] □ **suppliantly** *adv.*

**supplicate** *v. formal* **1 tr.** petition humbly to (a person) or for (a thing). **2 intr.** (foll. by *to, for*) make a petition. [based on Latin *supplicatus* 'beseeched'] □ **suppliant** *adj.* & *n.* **supplication** *n.* **supplicatory** *adj.*

**supply**<sup>1</sup> ● *v.tr.* (**-ies, -ied**) **1** provide or furnish (a thing needed). **2** (often foll. by *with*) provide (a person etc. with a thing needed). **3** meet or make up for (a deficiency, need, etc.). **4** fill (a vacancy etc.) as a substitute. ● *n.* (**pl. -ies**) **1** the act or an instance of providing what is needed. **2** a stock, amount, etc., of something provided or obtainable. **3** (in *pl.*) the provisions and equipment for an army, expedition, etc. **4** (often *attrib.*) a person, e.g. a schoolteacher, acting as a temporary substitute for another. □ **in short supply** scarce. [from Latin *supplere* 'to fill up'] □ **supplier** *n.*

**supply**<sup>2</sup> *adv.* (also **supplely**) in a supple manner.

**supply and demand** *n. Econ.* the amount or quantity of a product available and required, as factors regulating its price.

**supply-side** *n. Econ.* denoting a policy of low taxation and other incentives to produce goods and invest.

**support** ● *v.tr.* **1** carry all or part of the weight of. **2** keep from falling or sinking or failing. **3** provide with a home and the necessities of life. **4** enable to last out; give strength to. **5** tend to substantiate or corroborate (a statement, theory, etc.). **6** back up; second. **7** speak in favour of (a resolution etc.). **8** be actively interested in (a particular team or sport). **9** (often as to (a principal actor etc.)) take a part that is secondary (cannot support the noise). ● *n.* **1** the act or an instance of supporting; the process of being supported. **2** a person or thing that supports. **3** a secondary act at a pop concert etc. □ **in support** 'to convey, carry'] □ **supportable** *adj.* **supportability** *n.* **supportably** *adv.* **supportingly** *adv.*

**supporter** *n.* a person or thing that supports, esp. a person supporting a cause, team, or sport.

**supporting film** *n.* a less important film in a cinema programme.

**supportive** *adj.* providing support or encouragement. □ **supportively** *adv.* **supportiveness** *n.*

**suppose** *v.tr.* (often foll. by *that* + clause) **1** assume, esp. in default of knowledge; be inclined to think. **2** take as a possibility or hypothesis (let us suppose you are right). **3** (in *imper.*) as a formula of proposal (suppose we try harder). **4** (of a theory or result etc.) require as a condition (*design supposes a creator*). **5** in the circumstances that; if (supposing we stay). **6** (as **supposed** *adj.*) generally accepted as being so (his supposed brother). **7** (in *passive*; foll. by *to* + *infin.*) a be expected or required (was supposed to write to you). **b** (with *neg.*) ought not; not be allowed to (not supposed to smoke). □ **1 suppose so** an expression of hesitant agreement. [from Old French *supposer*] □ **supposable** *adj.*

**supposedly** *adv.* as is generally supposed.

**supposition** *n.* **1** a fact or idea etc. supposed. **2** the act or an instance of supposing. □ **suppositional** *adj.*

**suppositious** *adj.* hypothetical, assumed.

**supposititious** *adj.* spurious; substituted for the genuine.

**suppository** *n.* (**pl. -ies**) a medical preparation designed to be inserted into the rectum or vagina to dissolve. [from medieval Latin *suppositorium* '(thing) placed underneath']

**suppress** *v.tr.* **1** end the activity or existence of, esp. forcibly. **2** prevent (information, feelings, etc.) from being seen, heard, or known. **3** a partly or wholly eliminate (electrical interference etc.). **b** equip (a device) to reduce such interference due to it. [based on Latin *suppressus* 'pressed down'] □ **suppressible** *adj.* **suppression** *n.* **suppressive** *adj.* **suppressor** *n.*

**suppressant** *n.* a suppressing or restraining agent, esp. a drug that suppresses the appetite.

**suppurate** *v.intr.* **1** form pus. **2** fester. [based on Latin *pus puris* 'pus'] □ **suppuration** *n.* **suppurative** *adj.*

**supra** *adv.* above or earlier on (in a book etc.).

**supra-** *prefix* **1** above. **2** beyond, transcending

(supra-  
'above,  
supran-  
limits.  
ality *n.*  
suprem-  
to or ;  
remacis  
suprem-  
authorit  
supreme  
2 greater  
sacrifice  
remus 'hi  
Supreme  
God.  
Supreme  
in a coun  
in a state.  
supreme  
supremo  
ruler. **2** a  
literally 'si  
surcease  
cease. [fro  
surcharg  
payment. **2**  
changing i  
load. ● *v.tr.*  
sum) as a s  
with a surc  
to excess.  
surculose  
on Latin sur  
surd ● *adj.*  
Phonet. (of a  
not the voi  
surd numbe  
surdus 'deaf,  
sure ● *adj.* **1**  
reason for a  
of, or that +  
confident in  
reliable or u  
(foll. by *to* + *j*  
or truthful.  
sure as fate  
infin.; foll. by  
*to*; not fail to  
make sure **1**  
**2** (foll. by *of*)  
existence or l  
**1** in fact; cert  
thing esp. *N.*  
certainly, yes  
nable or adm.  
Latin securus 's  
sure-fire attril  
sure-footed c  
mistake. □ sur  
*n.*  
surely *adv.* **1** w  
as an appeal to  
**3** with safety; s  
surety /shoor-  
takes responsi  
of an undertak