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**Merriam-
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assistant professor *n* (1851) : a member of a college or university faculty who ranks above an instructor and below an associate professor — **assistant professorship** *n*

as-sis-tant-ship \ə-'sɪs-tən(t)-'ʃɪp\ *n* (1948) : a paid appointment awarded annually to a qualified graduate student that requires part-time teaching, research, or residence hall duties

as-size \ə-'sɪz\ *n* [ME *assise*, fr. OF, session, settlement, fr. *asseoir* to seat, fr. (assumed) VL *assedere*, fr. L *assidēre* to sit beside, assist in the office of a judge, fr. *ad-* + *sedere* to sit — more at SIT] (14c) **1 a** : a judicial inquest **b** : an action to be decided by such an inquest, the writ for instituting it, or the verdict or finding rendered by the jury **2 a** : the former periodical sessions of the superior courts in English countries for trial of civil and criminal cases — usu. used in pl. **b** : the time or place of holding such a court, the court itself, or a session of it — usu. used in pl.

as-so-ci-ate \ə-'sɔ-shē-'āt, -sē-\ *vb* **-at-ed; -at-ing** [ME *associat* associated, fr. L *associatus*, pp. of *associare* to unite, fr. *ad-* + *sociare* to join, fr. *socius* companion — more at SOCIAL] *vt* (14c) **1** : to join as a partner, friend, or companion **2 obs** : to keep company with : ATTEND **3** : to join or connect together : COMBINE **4** : to bring together or into relationship in any of various intangible ways (as in memory or imagination) ~ *vi* **1** : to come or be together as partners, friends, or companions **2** : to combine or join with other parts : UNITE *syn* see JOIN

as-so-ciate \ə-'sɔ-shē-'āt, -sē-, -'āt, -'ʃat\ *adj* (14c) **1** : closely connected (as in function or office) with another **2** : closely related esp. in the mind **3** : having secondary or subordinate status (<~ membership in a society)

as-so-ciate \same as 2\ *n* (1533) **1** : one associated with another: as **a** : PARTNER, COLLEAGUE **b** : COMPANION, COMRADE **2 a** : an entry-level member (as of a learned society, professional organization, or profession) **b** : EMPLOYEE, WORKER **3 often cap** : a degree conferred esp. by a junior college (<~ in arts) — **as-so-ci-ate-ship** \-ʃɪp\ *n*

associate professor *n* (1822) : a member of a college or university faculty who ranks above an assistant professor and below a professor — **associate professorship** *n*

as-so-ci-a-tion \ə-'sɔ-sē-'ā-shən, -shē-\ *n* (1535) **1 a** : the act of associating **b** : the state of being associated : COMBINATION, RELATIONSHIP **2** : an organization of persons having a common interest : SOCIETY **3** : something linked in memory or imagination with a thing or person **4** : the process of forming mental connections or bonds between sensations, ideas, or memories **5** : the aggregation of chemical species to form (as with hydrogen bonds) loosely bound complexes **6** : a major unit in ecological community organization characterized by essential uniformity and usu. by two or more dominant species — **as-so-ci-a-tion-al** \-ʃ(ə)-nəl\ *adj*

association area *n* (ca. 1909) : an area of the cerebral cortex that functions in linking and coordinating the sensory and motor areas

association football *n* (1873) : SOCCER

as-so-ci-a-tion-ism \ə-'sɔ-sē-'ā-shə-'ni-zəm, -sō-shē-\ *n* (1875) : a reductionist school of psychology that holds that the content of consciousness can be explained by the association and reassociation of irreducible sensory and perceptual elements — **as-so-ci-a-tion-ist** \-ā-sh(ə)-nist\ *n* — **as-so-ci-a-tion-ist-ic** \-ā-shə-'nis-tik\ *adj*

as-so-cia-tive \ə-'sɔ-shē-'ā-tiv, -sē-, -shə-tiv\ *adj* (1812) **1** : of or relating to association esp. of ideas or images **2** : dependent on or acquired by association or learning **3** : of, having, or being the property of producing the same result no matter which pair of elements next to each other in a mathematical expression is used to perform a given operation first if the elements in the expression are listed in a fixed order (<addition is ~ since $(a + b) + c = a + (b + c)$) — **as-so-cia-tive-ly** *adv* — **as-so-cia-tiv-i-ty** \-sɔ-shē-'ā-ti-və-tē, -sē-, -shə-'ti-\ *n*

associative learning *n* (1957) : a learning process in which discrete ideas and percepts become linked to one another

associative neuron *n* (1935) : a neuron that conveys impulses from one neuron to another

as-soil \ə-'sɔi(ə)\ *vt* [ME, fr. OF *assoldre*, fr. L *absolvere* to absolve] (13c) **1 archaic** : ABSOLVE, PARDON **2 archaic** : ACQUIT, CLEAR **3 archaic** : EXPIATE — **as-soil-ment** \-mənt\ *n*, *archaic*

as-so-nance \ə-'sɔ-nən(t)s\ *n* [F, fr. L *assonare* to answer with the same sound, fr. *ad-* + *sonare* to sound, fr. *sonus* sound — more at SOUND] (1727) **1** : resemblance of sound in words or syllables **2 a** : relatively close juxtaposition of similar sounds esp. of vowels **b** : repetition of vowels without repetition of consonants (as in *stony* and *holy*) used as an alternative to rhyme in verse — **as-so-nant** \-nənt\ *adj* or *n* — **as-so-nant-al** \ə-'sɔ-'nən-təl\ *adj*

as soon as conj (14c) : immediately at or shortly after the time that **as-sort** \ə-'sɔrt\ *vb* [MF *assortir*, fr. *a-* (fr. L *ad-*) + *sorte* sort] *vt* (15c) **1** : to distribute into groups of a like kind : CLASSIFY **2** : to supply with an assortment (as of goods) ~ *vi* **1** : to agree in kind : HARMONIZE **2** : to keep company : ASSOCIATE — **as-sort-er** *n*

as-sort-ta-tive \ə-'sɔrt-tə-tiv\ *adj* (1897) : being nonrandom mating based on like or unlike characteristics — **as-sor-ta-tive-ly** \-lə\ *adv*

as-sort-ed \-'sɔrt-əd\ *adj* (ca. 1797) **1** : suited esp. by nature or charac-

syn ASSUME, AFFECT, PRETEND, SIMULATE, FEIGN, COUNTERFEIT, SHAM mean to put on a false or deceptive appearance. ASSUME often implies a justifiable motive rather than an intent to deceive (<assumed an air of cheerfulness around the patients>). AFFECT implies making a false show of possessing, using, or feeling (<affected an interest in art>). PRETEND implies an overt and sustained false appearance (<pretended that nothing had happened>). SIMULATE suggests a close imitation of the appearance of something (<cosmetics that simulate a suntan>). FEIGN implies more artful invention than PRETEND, less specific mimicry than SIMULATE (<feigned sickness>). COUNTERFEIT implies achieving the highest degree of verisimilitude of any of these words (<an actor counterfeiting drunkenness>). SHAM implies an obvious falseness that fools only the gullible (<shammed a most unconvincing limp>).

as-sum-ing *adj* (1695) : PRETENTIOUS, PRESUMPTUOUS

as-sump-sit \ə-'səm(p)-sət\ *n* [NL, he undertook, fr. L *assumere* to undertake] (1590) **1** : an express or implied promise or contract not under seal on which an action may be brought **2 a** : a former common-law action brought to recover damages alleged from the breach of an assumpsit **b** : an action to recover damages for breach of a contract

as-sump-tion \ə-'səm(p)-shən\ *n* [ME, fr. LL *assumptio*, *assumptio* taking up, fr. L *assumere*] (13c) **1 a** : the taking up of a person into heaven **b cap** : August 15 observed in commemoration of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary **2** : a taking to or upon oneself (<the ~ of a new position> **3** : the act of laying claim to or taking possession of something (the ~ of power) **4** : ARROGANCE, PRETENSION **5 a** : an assuming that something is true **b** : a fact or statement (as a proposition, axiom, postulate, or notion) taken for granted **6** : the taking over of another's debts

as-sump-tive \ə-'səm(p)-tiv\ *adj* (1611) : of, relating to, or based on assumption

as-sur-ance \ə-'ʃʊr-ən(t)s\ *n* (14c) **1** : the act or action of assuring: as **a** : PLEDGE, GUARANTEE **b** : the act of conveying real property; also : the instrument by which it is conveyed **c chiefly Brit** : INSURANCE **2** : the state of being assured: as **a** : SECURITY **b** : a being certain in the mind (<the puritan's ~ of salvation> **c** : confidence of mind or manner : easy freedom from self-doubt or uncertainty; also : excessive self-confidence : BRASHNESS, PRESUMPTION **3** : something that inspires or tends to inspire confidence (<gave repeated ~s of goodwill>) *syn* see CONFIDENCE

as-sure \ə-'ʃʊr\ *vt* **as-sured; as-sur-ing** [ME, fr. MF *assurer*, fr. ML *assurare*, fr. L *ad-* + *securus* secure] (14c) **1** : to make safe (as from risks or against overthrow) : INSURE **2** : to give confidence to (<and hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall ~ our hearts — 1 Jn 3:19 (AV)> **3** : to make sure or certain : CONVINCED (<glancing back to ~ himself no one was following> **4** : to inform positively (<I ~ you that we will do better next time> **5** : to make certain the coming or attainment of : GUARANTEE (<worked hard to ~ accuracy>) *syn* see ENSURE

as-sured \ə-'ʃʊrd\ *adj* (15c) **1** : characterized by certainty or security : GUARANTEED (<an ~ market> **2 a** : SELF-ASSURED **b** : SELF-SATISFIED **3** : satisfied as to the certainty or truth of a matter (<rest ~ we got what we came for>) — **as-sured-ness** \-ʃʊr-əd-nəs, -'ʃʊrd-\ *n*

assured *n*, *pl* **assured** or **assureds** (1755) : INSURED

as-sured-ly \ə-'ʃʊr-əd-lē\ *adv* (14c) **1** : without a doubt : CERTAINLY **2** : in an assured manner : CONFIDENTLY

as-sur-er \ə-'ʃʊr-ər\ or **as-sur-or** \ə-'ʃʊr-ər, ə-'ʃʊr-'ər\ *n* (1607) : one that assures : INSURER

as-sur-gent \ə-'sər-jənt\ *adj* [L *assurgens*, *assurgens*, pp. of *assurgere* to rise, fr. *ad-* + *surgere* to rise — more at SURGE] (1578) : moving upward : RISING; esp : ASCENDANT **1b**

As-syr-i-an \ə-'sɪr-ē-ən\ *n* (15c) **1** : a native or inhabitant of ancient Assyria **2** : the dialect of Akkadian spoken by the Assyrians — **Assyrian** *adj*

As-syr-i-ol-o-gy \ə-'sɪr-ē-'ā-lə-jē\ *n* (1828) : the science or study of the history, language, and antiquities of ancient Assyria and Babylonia — **As-syr-i-ol-o-gi-cal** \-sɪr-ē-ə-'lā-jɪ-kəl\ *adj* — **As-syr-i-ol-o-gist** \-'ā-lə-jɪst\ *n*

-ast *n* suffix [ME, fr. L *-astes*, fr. Gk *-astēs*, fr. verbs in *-azein*] : one connected with (<ecdysiast>)

astar-board \ə-'stār-bɔrd\ *adv* (ca. 1630) : toward or on the starboard side of a ship (<put the helm hard ~>)

As-tar-te \ə-'stār-tē\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Astartē*] : the Phoenician goddess of fertility and of sexual love

as-ta-tine \ə-'tā-tēn\ *n* [Gk *astatos* unsteady, fr. *a-* + *statos* standing, fr. *histanai* to cause to stand — more at STAND] (1947) : a radioactive halogen element discovered by bombarding bismuth with alpha particles and also formed by radioactive decay — see ELEMENT table

as-ter \ə-'tər\ *n* (1664) **1** [NL, fr. L *aster*, fr. Gk *aster*, *astēr* star, aster — more at STAR] **a** : any of various chiefly fall-blooming leafy-stemmed composite herbs (*Aster* and closely related genera) with often showy heads containing disk flowers or both disk and ray flowers **b** : CHINA ASTER **2** [NL, fr. Gk *aster*, *astēr*] : a system of microtubules arranged radially about a centriole at either end of the mitotic or meiotic spindle