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as of ringing, humming, etc.: said of the ears or head — **vt.** 1 to cause (a bell, etc.) to ring 2 to sound (a peal, knell, etc.) by or as by ringing a bell or bells 3 to signal, proclaim, announce, summon, etc. by or as by ringing [chimes ring the hours] 4 to test (coins, etc.) by the sound produced in striking on something hard 5 [Chiefly Brit.] to call by telephone: often with *up* 6 [Slang] to substitute (originally a racehorse) fraudulently: often with *in* **n.** 1 the sound of a bell 2 *a*) any similar sound [the ring of laughter] *b*) any loud sound, esp. when repeated, continued, or reverberated, as the intermittent sound an incoming call triggers on a telephone 3 the characteristic sound or impression (of some feeling) [the ring of sincerity] 4 a set of bells 5 the act of ringing a bell, etc. 6 [Informal] a telephone call: chiefly in **give someone a ring**, to telephone someone — **ring a bell** to stir up a memory; sound familiar — **ring down the curtain** 1 to signal for a theater curtain to be lowered 2 to end something — **ring in** (or **out**) 1 to punch in (or out): see **PUNCH** 2 to usher in (or out) — **ring off** [Chiefly Brit.] to end a telephone call; hang up — **ring the bell** [Informal] to achieve a success: originally in allusion to hitting the bull's-eye and so causing a bell to ring in target shooting — **ring up** *vt.* to record or enter (a specified amount) on a cash register — **ring up the curtain** 1 to signal for a theater curtain to be raised 2 to begin something

ring (rɪŋ) **n.** [ME < OE *hring*, akin to OHG, ON *hringr*, Du *ring*, Goth **hrings* < IE *(s)krengh- < base *(s)ker-, to turn, bend > Gr *kirkos*, ring, L *cortina*, round vessel] 1 a circular band, usually of precious metal and often set with gems, worn on the finger as an ornament or a symbol of betrothal, marriage, etc. 2 a circular band of metal, plastic, etc., used to connect, hang, seal, decorate, etc. a thing or things [a key ring, a napkin ring] 3 *a*) a circular line, mark, or figure *b*) a line, mark, stain, etc. along the edge or periphery of something [a ring of dirt around the inside of a bathtub] 4 the outer edge or border of something circular; rim, as of a wheel 5 a circular cut made, or a circle of bark cut from, around the trunk or a branch of a tree 6 ANNUAL RING 7 any of the turns in a helix or spiral 8 a circular course, as in dancing 9 a number of people or things grouped in a circle *10 a group of people working together to advance their own interests, esp. by questionable or illegal manipulation and control, as in business, politics, etc. 11 an enclosed area, often circular, for contests, exhibitions, etc. [a circus ring] 12 *a*) an enclosure, now usually a square, canvas-covered area set off by stakes and ropes, in which boxing and wrestling matches are held *b*) the sport or profession of boxing; prizefighting (with *the*) *c*) [pl.] *Gym.* two wooden rings suspended from a ceiling, used for acrobatic feats and routines (usually with *the*) *d*) [pl.] *Gym.* a competitive event in which the rings are used (usually with *the*) 13 a contest or competition, esp. a political one, as in *throw one's hat into the ring*: see phrase at **HAT** 14 *Astron.* a thin, flat, reflective band of orbiting particles, probably ice crystals and dust, encircling a planet, as Saturn or Uranus, along its equatorial plane at altitudes below the Roche limit 15 *Chem.* CLOSED CHAIN 16 *Geom.* the space between two concentric circles 17 *Math.* a set of elements that has two operations, addition and multiplication, and the properties of being a commutative group under addition, of being closed and associative under multiplication and addition, and in which multiplication is distributive over addition — **vt.** **ringed**, **ring/ing** 1 to surround or encircle with or as with a ring 2 to form into a ring or rings 3 to furnish with a ring or rings 4 to put a ring through the nose of (an animal), as to prevent rooting or fighting 5 to circle about and so hem in (animals) 6 in some games, to toss a ring, horseshoe, quoit, etc. so that it encircles (a peg) 7 to girdle (a tree) — **vi.** 1 to form in a ring or rings 2 to move in a circular or curving course; run, fly, etc. in circles or spirals

ring-a-le-vi-o (rɪŋ'ə'le'və'ɒ) **n.** [< prec. + RELIEVE] a children's game in which members of one group try to find and capture hiding members of another group: a captured player is kept in a circle drawn on the ground and is set free when tagged by a teammate

ring bearer an attendant, typically a young boy, who formally carries the rings at a wedding

ring-bolt (rɪŋ'bɒlt) **n.** a bolt with a ring at the head

ring-bone (-bɒn) **n.** any pathological bony growth on the pastern bones of a horse, often causing lameness

ring-dove (-dʊv) **n.** any of various Eurasian pigeons with markings around the neck; esp., a small dove (*Streptopelia risoria*)

ringed (rɪŋd) **adj.** 1 wearing or having a ring or rings 2 decorated or marked with a ring or rings 3 encircled by a ring or rings 4 formed like a ring or of rings

ring-gent (rɪŋ'jənt) **adj.** [L *ringens*, prp. of *ringi*, to gape] 1 having the mouth wide open; gaping 2 *Bot.* having its petals separated by a distinct gap: said of certain flowers

ring-er (rɪŋ'ər) **n.** 1 a horseshoe or quoit thrown so that it encircles the peg 2 such a throw

ring'er (rɪŋ'ər) **n.** 1 a person or thing that rings a bell, chime, etc. *2 [Slang] *a*) a horse, player, etc. fraudulently entered, or substituted for another, in a competition *b*) any substitute *c*) a person or thing very closely resembling another (now usually **dead ringer**)

Ring-er's solution (or fluid) (rɪŋ'ər's) [after S. Ringer (1835-1910), Eng physiologist] *Biochem., Med.* a solution of the chlorides of sodium, potassium, and calcium in purified water that has the same osmotic pressure as that found in blood or tissues, used in physiological research, to correct dehydration, etc.

ring finger the finger next to the little finger, esp. of the left hand: the wedding ring is usually worn on this finger

ring-git (rɪŋ'ɡɪt) **n., pl. -gɪt** [Malay, lit., jagged: from the serrated edge of the original coins] the basic monetary unit of Malaysia: see the table of monetary units in the Reference Supplement

ring-hals (rɪŋ'hals) **n., pl. -hals** or **-hals-es** [Afrik, obs. sp. of *rinkals* < Du *ring* (see **RING**) + *hals*, neck: see **COLLAR**] a male, rough-skinned spitting cobra (*Hemachatus hemachatus*) of S Africa that usually sprays jets of venom at the eyes of an aggressor

ring-leader (rɪŋ'led'ər) **n.** [RING + LEADER] a person who leads others, esp. in unlawful acts, opposition to authority, etc.

ring-let (-lɪt) **n.** [dim. of **RING**] 1 a little ring or circle 2 a curl of hair, esp. a long one — **ring/let-ed** **adj.**

ring-master (rɪŋ'mas'tər, -mās'-) **n.** a person who directs performances, as in a circus ring

ring-neck (rɪŋ'nek) **n.** a ring-necked bird, snake, etc.

ring-necked (rɪŋ'nekt) **adj.** *Zool.* having a distinctive colored stripe or stripes around the neck

ring-necked duck a North American duck (*Aythya collaris*), the male of which has a black breast, neck, and back with a faint coppery ring around the neck

ring-necked pheasant an Asian game fowl (*Phasianus colchicus*) with a whitish collar around the neck in the male, now widely introduced and bred in North America, Europe, etc.

ringneck snake any of a genus (*Diadophis*) of small colubrid snakes with a yellow or orange ring around the neck, common throughout North America: also **ring-necked snake**

Ring of Fire beltlike region, roughly surrounding the Pacific Ocean, characterized by frequent volcanic and seismic activity caused by the colliding of moving crustal plates

Ring of the Nibelung *Gmc. Legend* the ring made from the Rheingold by Alberich, leader of the Nibelungs, a race of dwarfs

ring ouzel a European thrush (*Turdus torquatus*) with a white crescent across the breast

ring-side (rɪŋ'saɪd) **n.** 1 the space or place just outside the ring, as at a boxing match or circus 2 any place that provides a close view of something — **adj.** *adv.* at, in, or from this place

ring-streaked (-strɛkt) **adj.** having streaks of color around the body

ring-tail (rɪŋ'taɪl) **n.** a ring-tailed animal, as a raccoon or raccoon

ring-tailed (-tald) **adj.** having colored bands or stripes around the tail

ring-tone (-tɒn) **n.** a brief digital recording of music or other sound that plays whenever a call is received on a cell phone

ring-toss (-tɒs) **n.** a game in which rings made of rope, etc. are tossed so as to encircle a peg

ring-worm (-wɜrm) **n.** any of various contagious skin diseases caused by related varieties of fungus and characterized by itching and the formation of ring-shaped, discolored patches covered with scales or vesicles

rink (rɪŋk) **n.** [ME (Scot), earlier *renk* < OFr *renc*, *RANK*] 1 *a*) a smooth expanse of ice marked off for the game of curling *b*) a part of a bowling green of a suitable size for a match *c*) the players on one side in a game of curling, bowls, or quoits 2 *a*) a smooth expanse of ice, often enclosed and artificially prepared, for ice-skating or hockey *b*) a smooth floor, usually of wood and enclosed, for roller-skating *c*) a building enclosing either of such rinks

rinky-dink (rɪŋ'kɛ dɪŋk) **adj.** [? altered < RICKY-TICK] [Slang] shoddy, cheap, worn-out, or corny

rins (rɪns) **vt.** **rinsed**, **rins/ing** [ME *rincen* < OFr *rincer*, earlier *reincier* < VL **recentiare*, to renew, rinse, purify < L *recens*, fresh, **RECENT**] 1 to wash lightly, esp. by dipping into water or by letting water run over, into, or through 2 *a*) to remove soap, dirt, or impurities from in this way, esp. as a final part of washing *b*) to remove (soap, dirt, etc.) in this way 3 to flush (the mouth or teeth), as with clear water 4 *a*) to dip (fabrics, garments, etc.) into a dye solution *b*) to use a rinse on (the hair) — **n.** 1 the act of rinsing 2 the water or solution used in rinsing 3 a substance mixed with water and used to rinse or tint hair — **rins'er** **n.**

rins-ing (rɪŋ'sɪŋ) **n.** [usually *pl.*] 1 *a*) the liquid in or with which anything has been rinsed *b*) **DREGS** 2 the act of one that rinses; rinse

Rio (rɪ'ɒ) *informal name for* RIO DE JANEIRO (the city)

Rio Branco (rɪ'ɒ brʌŋ'kɒ) city in W Brazil: capital of Acre state

Rio Bra-vo (rɪ'ɒ brə'vɒ) *Mex. name for the* RIO GRANDE (river flowing into the Gulf of Mexico): also **Río Bravo del Norte** (del nɔr'te)

Rio de Ja-nei-ro (rɪ'ɒ də'zə nɛr'ɒ, -dɛ'-; *Port* rɛ'ɒ də'zə nã'rɒ) 1 state of SE Brazil: 16,954 sq mi (43,911 sq km); cap. Rio de Janeiro 2 its capital, a seaport in the SE coast

Río de la Plata see **PLATA**, Río de la

Río de O-ro (rɪ'ɒ də'ɔr'ɒ) *former name for* SPANISH SAHARA

Río Gran-de (for 1, rɪ'ɒ grænd'; -grændé, -grændá; for 2 & 3, *Port* rɛ'ɒ grun'də) [Sp, lit., great river] 1 river flowing from S Colo. south through N.Mex., then southeast as the boundary between Texas and Mexico into the Gulf of Mexico: 1,885 mi (3,034 km) 2 river in SE Brazil, in the states of Minas Gerais & São Paulo; headstream of the Paraná: c. 650 mi (1,046 km) 3 seaport in SE Brazil, on the Atlantic

Río Gran-de do Nor-te (rɪ'ɒ grun'də dɒ nɔr'tə) state of NE Brazil: 20,582 sq mi (53,307 sq km); cap. Natal

Río Gran-de do Sul (rɪ'ɒ grun'də dɒ sʊl) southernmost state of Brazil: 108,905 sq mi (282,063 sq km); cap. Pôrto Alegre

Rio-ja (rɪ'ɔ'hə; *Sp* rɛ'ɔ'hə) **n.** [sometimes *r-*] any of various wines, esp. dry red wines, produced in La Rioja, a region of N Spain