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sel·e·nog·ra·phy (sĕl'ə-nŏg'ra-fĕ) *n.* The study of the physical features of the moon. —**sel·e·nog·ra·pher**, **sel·e·nog·ra·phist** *n.* —**sel·e·no·graph·ic** (-nə-grăf'ik), **sel·e·no·graph·i·cal** (-i-kəl) *adj.* —**sel·e·no·graph·i·cal·ly** *adv.*

sel·e·nol·o·gy (sĕl'ə-nŏl'ə-jĕ) *n.* The astronomical study of the moon. —**sel·e·no·log·i·cal** (-nə-lŏj'i-kəl) *adj.* —**sel·e·nol·o·gist** *n.*

sel·e·no·sis (sĕl'ə-nŏ'sis) *n.* Poisoning, especially of livestock, caused by ingesting selenium found in some plants, in the soil, or in some microorganisms.

Se·leu·ci·a (sĭ-lĕŏ'shĕ-ə, -shə) *n.* An ancient city of Mesopotamia on the Tigris River south-southeast of modern Baghdad. Founded c. 300 B.C., it was an important commercial center and the chief city of the empire founded by Seleucus I.

Se·leu·cid (sĭ-lĕŏ'-'sĭd) *n.* A Hellenistic dynasty founded by Seleucus I after the death of Alexander the Great. It ruled much of Asia Minor from 312 to 64 B.C. —**Se·leu·cid** *adj.*

Se·leu·cus I (sĭ-lĕŏ'kŏs). 358?–281 B.C. Macedonian general under Alexander the Great. He founded and ruled (312–281) the Seleucid dynasty after Alexander's death.

self (sĕlf) *n., pl. selves* (sĕlvz) **1.** The total, essential, or particular being of a person; the individual: "An actor's instrument is the self" (Joan Juliet Buck). **2.** The essential qualities distinguishing one person from another; individuality: "He would walk a little first along the southern walls, shed his European self, fully enter this world" (Howard Kaplan). **3.** One's consciousness of one's own being or identity; the ego: "For some of us, the self's natural doubts are given in mesmerizing amplification by way of critics' negative assessments of our writing" (Joyce Carol Oates). **4.** One's own interests, welfare, or advantage: *thinking of self alone*. **5. Immunology.** That which the immune system identifies as belonging to the body: *tissues no longer recognized as self*. —**self** *pron.* Myself, yourself, himself, or herself: *a living wage for self and family*. —**self** *adj.* **1.** Of the same character throughout. **2.** Of the same material as the article with which it is used: *a dress with a self belt*. **3. Obsolete.** Same or identical. [Middle English, selfsame, from Old English. See **s(w)e-** in Appendix.]

self- *pref.* **1.** Oneself; itself: *self-control*. **2.** Automatic; automatically: *self-loading*. [Middle English, from Old English, from *self*, *self*. See **SELF**.]

self-a·ban·doned (sĕlf'ə-băn'dənd) *adj.* Lacking self-restraint, especially having completely yielded to one's impulses. —**self'·a·ban'don·ment** *n.*

self-a·base·ment (sĕlf'ə-bās'mənt) *n.* Degradation or humiliation of oneself, especially because of feelings of guilt or inferiority.

self-ab·ne·ga·tion (sĕlf'əb'nĕ-gā'shən) *n.* The setting aside of self-interest for the sake of others or for a belief or principle. —**self'·ab·ne·gat·ing** *adj.*

self-ab·sorbed (sĕlf'əb-sŏrbd', -zŏrbd') *adj.* Excessively self-involved. —**self'·ab·sorp·tion** (-sŏrp'shən, -zŏrp'-) *n.*

self-a·buse (sĕlf'ə-byŏŏs') *n.* **1.** Abuse of oneself or one's abilities. **2.** Masturbation.

self-act·ing (sĕlf'ăk'tĭng) *adj.* Able to act or work automatically.

self-ac·tu·al·ize (sĕlf'ăk'chŏŏ-ə-lĭz') *intr.v. -ized, -iz·ing, -iz·es.* To develop or achieve one's full potential. —**self'·ac·tu·al·iz·a·tion** (-ə-lĭ-zā'shən) *n.* —**self'·ac·tu·al·iz·er** *n.*

self-ad·dressed (sĕlf'ăd·drĕst') *adj.* Addressed to oneself: *a self-addressed envelope*.

self-ad·he·sive (sĕlf'ăd'hĕ'sĭv) *adj.* Having a surface coated with an adhesive and not needing any substance, such as glue or paste, applied to form a bond: *self-adhesive wallpaper*; *self-adhesive labels*.

self-ad·min·is·ter (sĕlf'ăd-mĭn'ĭ-star) *tr.v. -tered, -ter·ing, -ters.* To administer (something) to oneself or itself: "Laboratory animals chose to self-administer cocaine, to the exclusion of food and water, until they collapsed" (Ross Gelbspan). —**self'·ad·min'is·tra·tion** *n.*

self-ag·gran·dize·ment (sĕlf'ə-grăn'dĭz-mənt) *n.* The act or practice of enhancing or exaggerating one's own importance, power, or reputation. —**self'·ag·gran'diz'ing** (-ə-grăn'dĭz'ĭng) *adj.*

self-a·nal·y·sis (sĕlf'ə-nāl'ĭ-sĭs) *n., pl. -ses* (-sĕz'). An independent methodical attempt by one to study and comprehend one's own personality or emotions. —**self'·an'a·lyt·i·cal** (-ăn'ə-lĭt'ĭ-kəl), **self'·an'a·lyt·ic** (-ĭk) *adj.*

self-an·ni·hi·la·tion (sĕlf'ə-nĭ'ə-lā'shən) *n.* **1.** Self-destruction. **2.** Loss of self-awareness, as in a mystical state.

self-ap·point·ed (sĕlf'ə-pŏin'tĭd) *adj.* Designated or chosen by oneself rather than by due authority: *a self-appointed arbiter*.

self-as·sert·ing (sĕlf'ə-sŭr'tĭng) *adj.* **1.** Asserting oneself or one's own rights or views. **2.a.** Self-confident. **b.** Overbearing; arrogant.

self-as·ser·tion (sĕlf'ə-sŭr'shən) *n.* Determined advancement of one's own personality, wishes, or views. —**self'·as·ser'tive** *adj.* —**self'·as·ser'tive·ly** *adv.* —**self'·as·ser'tive·ness** *n.*

self-as·sured (sĕlf'ə-shŏŏrd') *adj.* Having or showing confidence and poise. —**self'·as·sur'ance** (-shŏŏr'əns) *n.*

self-a·ware (sĕlf'ə-wār') *adj.* Aware of oneself as an individual entity or personality. —**self'·a·ware'ness** *n.*

self-bast·ing (sĕlf'bā'stĭng) *adj.* Prepared so as to remain moist while being cooked: *a self-basting turkey*.

self-care (sĕlf'kār') *n.* The care of oneself without medical, professional, or other assistance or oversight.

self-con·tered (sĕlf'sĕn'tərd) *adj.* Engrossed in oneself and one's own affairs; selfish. —**self'·con'tered·ly** *adv.* —**self'·con'tered·ness** *n.*

self-clean·ing (sĕlf'klĕ'ĭng) *adj.* Made or designed to clean itself, often automatically: *a self-cleaning oven*.

self-col·ored (sĕlf'kŏl'ərd) *adj.* **1.** Being in the natural or original color. **2.** Of only one color.

self-com·mand (sĕlf'kə-mānd') *n.* Full presence of mind; self-confidence.

self-com·pat·i·ble (sĕlf'kəm-pāt'ə-bəl) *adj. Botany.* Capable of self-fertilization. —**self'·com·pat'·i·bil'·i·ty** *n.*

self-com·pla·cent (sĕlf'kəm-plā'sənt) *adj.* Self-satisfied, often smugly so. —**self'·com·pla·cent·y** *n.* —**self'·com·pla·cent·ly** *adv.*

self-con·cept (sĕlf'kŏn'sĕpt) *n.* The mental image or perception that one has of oneself.

self-con·cep·tion (sĕlf'kən-sĕp'shən) *n.* Self-concept.

self-con·cern (sĕlf'kən-sŭrn') *n.* Selfish or excessive concern for oneself. —**self'·con·cerned** *adj.*

self-con·fessed (sĕlf'kən-fĕst') *adj.* According to one's own admission: *a self-confessed plagiarist*.

self-con·fi·dence (sĕlf'kŏn'fĭ-dəns) *n.* Confidence in oneself or one's own abilities: "Without self-confidence we are as babes in the cradle" (Virginia Woolf). See Synonyms at **confidence**. —**self'·con'fi·dent** *adj.* —**self'·con'fi·dent·ly** *adv.*

self-con·scious (sĕlf'kŏn'shŏs) *adj.* **1.** Aware of oneself as an individual or of one's own being, actions, or thoughts. **2.** Socially ill at ease: *a self-conscious teenager*. **3.** Excessively conscious of one's appearance or manner: *a young, self-conscious executive*. **4.** Showing the effects of self-consciousness; stilted: *self-conscious prose*. —**self'·con'scious·ly** *adv.* —**self'·con'scious·ness** *n.*

self-con·tained (sĕlf'kən-tānd') *adj.* **1.** Constituting a complete and independent unit in and of itself: *a self-contained retirement community*; *a self-contained dictionary*. **2.a.** Not dependent on others; self-sufficient: *a self-contained settlement in the Arctic*. **b.** Keeping to oneself; reserved. —**self'·con'tain·ment** *n.*

self-con·tent (sĕlf'kən-tĕnt') *adj.* Satisfied with oneself; complacent. —**self-content** *n.* Self-contentment. —**self'·con'tent'·ed·ly** *adv.*

self-con·tent·ment (sĕlf'kən-tĕnt'mənt) *n.* Self-satisfaction; complacency.

self-con·tra·dic·tion (sĕlf'kŏn'trā-dĭk'shən) *n.* **1.** The act, state, or fact of contradicting oneself or itself. **2.** An idea or statement containing contradictory elements. —**self'·con'tra·dic'to·ry** (-dĭk'tə-rĕ) *adj.*

self-con·trol (sĕlf'kən-trŏl') *n.* Control of one's emotions, desires, or actions by one's own will: "You think yourself a miracle of sensibility, but self-control is what you need" (Mary Boykin Chesnut). —**self'·con'trolled** *adj.*

self-cor·rect·ing (sĕlf'kə-rĕk'tĭng) *adj.* **1.** Correcting its or one's own mistakes. **2.** Of or being a typewriter mechanism that allows for automatic correction of a typing error.

self-crit·i·cal (sĕlf'krĭt'ĭ-kəl) *adj.* Critical of oneself and one's faults and weaknesses: "In my experience, no species of performing artist is as self-critical as a dancer" (Susan Sontag). —**self'·crit'·i·cal·ly** *adv.* —**self'·crit'·i·cism** (-krĭt'ĭ-sĭz'əm) *n.*

self-de·ceit (sĕlf'dĭ-sĕt') *n.* Self-deception.

self-de·ceived (sĕlf'dĭ-sĕvd') *adj.* Deceived by one's own illusions or errors.

self-de·ceiv·ing (sĕlf'dĭ-sĕ'vĭng) *adj.* Given to or believing or fancying mistaken notions about oneself.

self-de·cep·tion (sĕlf'dĭ-sĕp'shən) *n.* The act of deceiving oneself or the state of being deceived by oneself. —**self'·de·cep'tive** *adj.* —**self'·de·cep'tive·ly** *adv.*

self-de·feat·ing (sĕlf'dĭ-fĕ'tĭng) *adj.* Injurious to one's or its own purposes or welfare: "American officials will find it harder than ever to ward off self-defeating protectionist measures" (George R. Packard).

self-de·fense (sĕlf'dĭ-fĕns') *n.* **1.** Defense of oneself when physically attacked: *She was taking a course in self-defense*. **2.** Defense of what belongs to oneself, as one's works or reputation. **3. Law.** The right to protect oneself against violence or threatened violence with whatever force or means are reasonably necessary. —**self'·de·fen'sive** *adj.*

self-def·i·ni·tion (sĕlf'dĕf'anĭsh'ən) *n.* Definition of one's identity, character, abilities, and attitudes, especially in relation to persons or things outside oneself or itself.

self-de·ni·al (sĕlf'dĭ-nĭ'al) *n.* Sacrifice of one's own desires or interests. See Synonyms at **abstinence**. —**self'·de·ny'ing** (-nĭ'ng) *adj.* —**self'·de·ny'ing·ly** *adv.*

self-dep·re·cat·ing (sĕlf'dĕp'rĭ-kā'tĭng) *adj.* Tending to undervalue oneself and one's abilities. —**self'·dep're·cat'ing·ly** *adv.*

self-dep·re·ca·to·ry (sĕlf'dĕp'rĭ-kā-tŏr'ĕ, -tŏr'ĕ) *adj.* Self-deprecating.

self-de·pre·ci·a·tion (sĕlf'dĭ-prĕ'shĕ-ā'shən) *n.* Dispar-

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