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THIRD EDITION

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FIRST EDITION

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OXFORD  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

IPR2017-00351

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First edition 2001

Second edition 2005

Third edition 2010

Published by Oxford University Press, Inc.  
198 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016  
[www.oup.com](http://www.oup.com)

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The Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Data available

ISBN 978-0-19-539288-3

9 8

Printed in the United States of America  
on acid-free paper

## compendium

'advantageous, brief,' from *compendium* 'profit, saving, abbreviation.'

**com-pen-di-um** /kəm'pendiəm/ ► n. (pl. **compendiums** or **compendia** /-dēə/) a collection of concise but detailed information about a particular subject, esp. in a book or other publication. ■ a collection of things, esp. one systematically gathered: *the program is a compendium of outtakes from our archives.*

—ORIGIN late 16th cent.: from Latin, 'profit, saving' (literally 'what is weighed together'), from *compendere*, from *com-* 'together' + *pendere* 'weigh.'

**com-pen-sa-ble** /kəm'pensəbəl/ ► adj. (of a loss or hardship) for which compensation can be obtained. —ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: French, from *compenser*, from Latin *compensare* 'weigh (something) against (another).'

**com-pen-sate** /'kæmpən,sæt/ ► v. 1 [with obj.] give (someone) something, typically money, in recognition of loss, suffering, or injury incurred; recompense: *payments were made to farmers to compensate them for cuts in subsidies.* ■ pay (someone) for work performed: *he will be richly compensated for his efforts.*

2 [no obj.] (**compensate for**) make up for (something unwelcome or unpleasant) by exerting an opposite force or effect: *officials have boasted levies to compensate for huge deficits.* ■ act to neutralize or correct (a deficiency or abnormality in a physical property or effect): *the output voltage rises, compensating for the original fall.* ■ Psychology attempt to conceal or offset (a disability or frustration) by development in another direction: *they identified with radical movements to compensate for their inability to relate to individual human beings.*

3 [with obj.] Mechanics provide (a pendulum) with extra or less weight to neutralize the effects of temperature, etc.

—DERIVATIVES **com-pen-sa-tive** /kəm'pensətiv/, 'kæmpən,sətiv/ adj., **com-pen-sa-tor** /-sətər/ n.

—ORIGIN mid 17th cent. (in the sense 'counterbalance'): from Latin *compensat-* 'weighed against', from the verb *compensare*, from *com-* 'together' + *pensare* (frequentative of *pendere* 'weigh').

**com-pen-sa-tion** /'kæmpən'səʃən/ ► n. something, typically money, awarded to someone as a recompense for loss, injury, or suffering: *seeking compensation for injuries suffered at work* | [as modifier] *a compensation claim.* ■ the action or process of making such an award: *the compensation of victims.* ■ the money received by an employee from an employer as a salary or wages. ■ something that counterbalances or makes up for an undesirable or unwelcome state of affairs: *the gray streets of London were small compensation for the loss of her beloved Africa* | *getting older has some compensations.*

■ Psychology the process of concealing or offsetting a psychological difficulty by developing in another direction.

—DERIVATIVES **com-pen-sa-tion-al** /-ʃənəl/ adj.

—ORIGIN late Middle English: via Old French from Latin *compensatio(n-)*, from the verb *compensare* 'weigh against' (see **COMPENSATE**).

**com-pen-sa-tion pen-du-lum** ► n. Physics a pendulum constructed from metals with differing coefficients of expansion in order to neutralize the effects of temperature variation.

**com-pen-sa-to-ry** /kəm'pensə,tɔ're/ ► adj. (of a payment) intended to recompense someone who has experienced loss, suffering, or injury: *\$50 million in compensatory damages.* ■ reducing or offsetting the unpleasant or unwelcome effects of something: *the government is taking compensatory actions to keep the interest rate constant.*

**com-pen-sa-to-ry time** ► n. an arrangement by which eligible employees are entitled to time off in

of a court or other body to deal with a particular matter: *the court's competence has been accepted.* ■ the ability of a criminal defendant to stand trial, as gauged by their mental ability to understand the proceedings and to assist defense lawyers. ■ (also **linguistic** or **language competence**) Linguistics a speaker's subconscious, intuitive knowledge of the rules of their language. Often contrasted with **PERFORMANCE**. ■ Biology & Medicine effective performance of the normal function.

2 dated an income large enough to live on, typically unearned: *he found himself with an ample competence and no obligations.*

**com-pe-tent** /'kæmpətənt/ ► adj. having the necessary ability, knowledge, or skill to do something successfully: *a highly competent surgeon* | *make sure the firm is competent to carry out the work.* ■ (of a person) efficient and capable: *an infinitely competent mother of three.* ■ acceptable and satisfactory, though not outstanding: *she spoke quite competent French.* ■ (chiefly of a court or other body) accepted as having legal authority to deal with a particular matter: *the governor was not the competent authority to deal with the matter.* ■ (of a criminal defendant) able to understand the charges and to aid in defending themselves. ■ Biology & Medicine capable of performing the normal function effectively.

—DERIVATIVES **com-pe-tent-ly** adv.

—ORIGIN late Middle English (in the sense 'suitable, adequate'): from Latin *competens*, from the verb *competere* in its earlier sense 'be fit or proper' (see **COMPETE**).

**com-pe-ti-tion** /'kæmpə'tiʃən/ ► n. the activity or condition of competing: *there is fierce competition between banks* | *at this conservatory, competition for admissions is stiff.* ■ an event or contest in which people compete: *a beauty competition.* ■ [in sing.] the person or people with whom one is competing, esp. in a commercial or sporting arena; the opposition: *I walked around to check out the competition.* ■ Ecology interaction between organisms, populations, or species, in which birth, growth and death depend on gaining a share of a limited environmental resource. —ORIGIN early 17th cent.: from late Latin *competitio(n-)* 'rivalry', from *competere* 'strive for' (see **COMPETE**).

**com-pet-i-tive** /kəm'petətiv/ ► adj. 1 of, relating to, or characterized by competition: *a competitive sport* | *the intensely competitive newspaper industry.* ■ having or displaying a strong desire to be more successful than others: *she had a competitive streak.* 2 as good as or better than others of a comparable nature: *a car industry competitive with any in the world.* ■ (of prices) low enough to compare well with those of rival merchants: *we offer prompt service at competitive rates.*

—DERIVATIVES **com-pet-i-tive-ness** n.

—ORIGIN early 19th cent.: from Latin *competit-* 'striven for', from the verb *competere* (see **COMPETE**), + *-IVE*.

**com-pet-i-tive ex-clu-sion** ► n. Ecology the inevitable elimination from a habitat of one of two different species with identical needs for resources.

**com-pet-i-tive-ly** /kəm'petətivl̩/ ► adv. 1 in a way that strives to gain or win something by defeating others: *their father roved competitively.* 2 (with reference to a product's pricing) in a way that compares favorably with others of the same nature: *our exports remained competitively priced.*

**com-pet-i-tor** /kəm'petətər/ ► n. an organization or country that is engaged in commercial or economic competition with others: *our main industrial competitors.* ■ a person who takes part in an athletic contest.

**com-pi-la-tion** /'kæmpə'ləʃən/ ► n. 1 the action or process of producing something, esp. a list, book, or report, by assembling information collected

## complement

—DERIVATIVES **com-pil-er** n.

—ORIGIN Middle English: from Old French *compiler* or its apparent source, Latin *compilare* 'plunder or plagiarize.'

**comp-ing** /'kæmpɪŋ/ ► n. 1 the process of making composite images, esp. electronically.

2 the action of playing a musical accompaniment, esp. in jazz or blues.

3 Brit. informal the practice of entering competitions, esp. those promoting consumer products.

—DERIVATIVES **comp-er** /-pər/ n. (Brit.) (sense 3).

**com-pla-cen-cy** /kəm'pləsəns/ (also **complacence**) ► n. a feeling of smug or uncritical satisfaction with oneself or one's achievements: *the figures are better, but there are no grounds for complacency.*

—ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: from medieval Latin *complacencia*, from Latin *complacere* 'to please.'

**com-pla-cent** /kəm'pləsənt/ ► adj. showing smug or uncritical satisfaction with oneself or one's achievements: *you can't afford to be complacent about security.*

—DERIVATIVES **com-pla-cent-ly** adv.

—ORIGIN mid 17th cent. (in the sense 'pleasant'): from Latin *complacens* 'pleasing', from the verb *complacere*.

**USAGE** **Complacent** and **complaisant** are two words that are similar in pronunciation and that both come from the Latin verb *complacere* 'to please,' but in English do not mean the same thing. **Complacent** is the more common word and means 'smug and self-satisfied': *after four consecutive championships, the team became complacent.* **Complaisant**, on the other hand, means 'willing to please': *the local people proved complaisant and cordial.*

**com-plain** /kəm'plān/ ► v. [with obj.] express dissatisfaction or annoyance about a state of affairs or an event: *local authorities complained that they lacked sufficient resources* | [no obj.] *"You never listen to me," Larry complained* | [no obj.] *we all complained bitterly about the food.* ■ [no obj.] (**complain of**) state that one is suffering from (a pain or other symptom of illness): *her husband began to complain of headaches.* ■ [no obj.] state a grievance: *they complained to the French government.* ■ [no obj.] literary make a mournful sound: *let the warbling flute complain.* ■ [no obj.] (of a structure or mechanism) groan or creak under strain.

—DERIVATIVES **com-plain-er** n., **com-plain-ing-ly** adv.

—ORIGIN late Middle English: from Old French *complaindre*, from medieval Latin *complangere* 'bemoan', from *com-* (expressing intensive force) + *plangere* 'to lament.'

**com-plain-ant** /kəm'plānənt/ ► n. Law a plaintiff in certain lawsuits.

—ORIGIN late Middle English: from French *complaignant*, present participle of *complaindre* 'to lament' (see **COMPLAIN**).

**com-plaint** /kəm'plānt/ ► n. 1 a statement that a situation is unsatisfactory or unacceptable: *I intend to make an official complaint* | *there were complaints that the building was an eyesore.* ■ a reason for dissatisfaction: *I have no complaints about the hotel.* ■ the expression of dissatisfaction: *a letter of complaint* | *he hasn't any cause for complaint.* ■ Law the plaintiff's reasons for proceeding in a civil action.

2 an illness or medical condition, esp. a relatively minor one: *she is receiving treatment for her skin complaint.*

—ORIGIN late Middle English: from Old French *complainte*, feminine past participle of *complaindre* 'to lament' (see **COMPLAIN**).

**com-plai-sant** /kəm'plāsənt/ ► adj. willing to please others; obliging; agreeable: *when unharnessed, Northern dogs are peaceful and complaisant.*

—DERIVATIVES **com-plai-sance** n., **com-plai-sant-ly**



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