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small (smól) *adj.* **small-er, small-est** **1a.** Being below average in size: *a small car.* **b.** Being below average in quantity or extent: *a small donation; a small project.* **2.** Limited in importance or significance; trivial: *a small matter.* **3.** Having limited position, influence, or status; minor: "A crowd of small writers had vainly attempted to rival Addison" (Thomas Macaulay). **4.** Unpretentious; modest: *made a small living; helped the cause in my own small way.* **5.** Not fully grown; very young: *a small child.* **6.** Narrow in outlook; petty: *a small mind.* **7.** Having been belittled; humiliated: *Their comments made me feel small.* **8.** Diluted; weak. Used of alcoholic beverages. **9.** Lacking force or volume: *a small voice.* **10.** Lowercase: *Type the password in small letters.* ♦ *adv.* **1.** In small pieces: *Cut the meat up small.* **2.** Without loudness or forcefulness; softly. **3.** In a small manner. ♦ *n.* **1.** A part that is smaller or narrower than the rest: *the small of the back.* **2.** **smalls a.** Small things considered as a group. **b.** Chiefly British Small items of clothing. [Middle English *smal* < Old English *smæl*.] —**small/ish** *adj.* —**small/ness** *n.*

♦ **SYNONYMS** *small, diminutive, little, miniature, minuscule, minute, petite, tiny, wee* These adjectives mean being notably below the average in size or magnitude: *a small house; diminutive in stature; little hands; a miniature camera; a minuscule amount of rain; minute errors; a petite figure; tiny feet; a wee puppy.*

ANTONYM *large*

small arm *n.* A firearm that can be carried in the hand.

small ball *n.* Baseball A strategy or style of offensive play in which runs are scored by getting batters on base and advancing them incrementally, as by sacrifices and stolen bases, rather than by slugging power.

small beer *n.* **1.** Weak or inferior beer. **2.** Unimportant things; trivia. ♦ *adj.* Trivial; unimportant.

small blind *n.* In certain variations of poker, the smaller of the two blinds, placed by the player one seat to the left of the dealer.

small-bore (smól/bór') *adj.* **1.** Of, relating to, or being a firearm of small caliber. **2.** Trivial or unimportant: *a small-bore controversy.*

small bowel *n.* See **small intestine**.

small calorie *n.* See **calorie** (sense 1).

small cap *adj.* **1.** Of or relating to relatively small companies that have little equity and a small number of shares of common stock outstanding. **2.** Of or relating to mutual funds that invest in the stock of such companies. ♦ *n.* A small cap company. [SMALL + CAP.]

small capital *n.* Abbr. **sc** A letter having the form of a capital letter but smaller; for example: **small capitals**.

small cell carcinoma *n.* A highly malignant carcinoma of the lungs, composed of small ovoid undifferentiated cells. Also called *oat cell carcinoma*.

small change *n.* **1.** Coins of low denomination. **2.** Something of little value or significance.

small-claims court (smól/klámz') *n.* A special court or session of court established for the simplified litigation of legal claims below a certain amount.

small-clothes (smól/klóthz', -klóz') *pl.n.* **1.** Men's close-fitting knee breeches worn in the 1700s. **2.** Chiefly British Small items of clothing, such as underclothes or handkerchiefs.

Small-ley (smól/lé), **Richard Errett** 1943–2005. American chemist who shared a 1996 Nobel Prize for discovering fullerenes.

small fry *n.* **1.** Small children. **2.** Young or small fish. **3.** People or things regarded as unimportant.

small hours *pl.n.* The early hours after midnight.

small intestine *n.* The narrow, winding, upper part of the intestine where digestion is completed and nutrients are absorbed by the blood. It extends from the pylorus to the cecum and consists of the duodenum, the jejunum, and the ileum. Also called *small bowel*.

small-mind-ed (smól/min'did) *adj.* **1.** Having a narrow or selfish attitude. **2.** Characterized by pettiness or selfishness. —**small/-mind-ed-ly** *adv.* —**small/-mind-ed-ness** *n.*

small-mouth bass (smól/móuth' bás) *n.* A North American freshwater food and game fish (*Micropterus dolomieu*) having a shorter upper jaw than the similar largemouth bass.

small potatoes *pl.n.* Informal **1.** A person or thing regarded as unimportant. **2.** An insignificant amount or sum.

small-pox (smól/pöks') *n.* An acute, highly infectious, often fatal disease caused by a poxvirus and characterized by high fever and aches with subsequent widespread eruption of pimples that blister, produce pus, and form pockmarks. Smallpox was eradicated worldwide by 1979 as a result of numerous vaccination campaigns and exists only as a laboratory specimen. Also called *variola*. [Early Modern English *small pockes*, small pustules (as opposed to *great pockes*, the great pox or syphilis) < *pockes*, pl. of *pock*; see *pock*.]

small print *n.* See **fine print**.

Smalls (smólz), **Robert** 1839–1915. American Union soldier and politician. After being forced to serve in the Confederate Navy, he took command of a ship and delivered it to Union forces. Smalls subsequently became a captain (1863–1866) and the highest-ranking African-American officer in the Union Navy. He later served as a US representative from South Carolina (1875–1879 and 1882–1887).

small-scale (smól/skál') *adj.* **1.** Limited in scope or extent; modest: *a small-scale plan.* **2.** Created on a small scale: *a small-scale model of the*

small-time or **small-time** (smól'tim') *adj.* Informal Insignificant or unimportant; minor: *a small-time actor.* —**small/tim'er** *n.*

small time *n.* Informal A modest or minor level of attainment in a competitive field: *a critical success that took her from the small time all the way to Hollywood.*

small-town (smól'toun') *adj.* **1.** Of or characteristic of a small town. **2.** Limited in outlook or experience; unsophisticated; provincial.

smalt (smólt) *n.* A deep blue paint and ceramic pigment produced by pulverizing a glass made of silica, potash, and cobalt oxide. [French < Italian *smalto*, enamel, glaze, of Germanic origin; see *mel-* in App. I.]

smalt-ite (smól'tit') also **smalt-ine** (smól'tin, -tên') *n.* A white to silver-gray mineral, (Co,Ni)As₃, that is an important ore of cobalt.

sma-rag-dine (smá-räg'dén') *adj.* **1.** Of or relating to emeralds. **2.** Having the color of emeralds. ♦ *n.* also **sma-ragd** (smá-räg'd, smár-äg'd') Emerald. [Middle English < Latin *smaragdinus*, emerald-green < Greek *smaragdos* < *smaragdos*, emerald.]

sma-rag-dite (smá-räg'dit') *n.* A fibrous green amphibole mineral occurring in rocks such as eclogite. [French < Latin *smaragdus*, emerald; see *EMERALD*.]

smarm (smärm) *n.* Smarmy speech or behavior. [Back-formation < *SMARMY*.]

smarm-y (smär'mē) *adj.* **-i-er, -i-est** **1.** Excessively ingratiating or insincerely earnest. See **Synonyms** at **unctuous**. **2.** Relating to or indulging in lewd conduct; smutty: *smarmy jokes*. [< *smarm*, to smear.] —**smarm-i-ness** *n.*

smart (smärt) *adj.* **smart-er, smart-est** **1a.** Having or showing intelligence; bright. See **Synonyms** at **intelligent**. **b.** Canny and shrewd in dealings with others: *a smart negotiator.* **2a.** Amusingly clever; witty: *a smart quip; a lively, smart conversation.* **b.** Impertinent; insolent: *That's enough of your smart talk.* **3.** Energetic or quick in movement: *a smart pace.* **4.** Fashionable; elegant: *a smart suit; a smart restaurant; the smart set.* See **Synonyms** at **fashionable**. **5.** Capable of making adjustments that resemble those resulting from human decisions, chiefly by means of electronic sensors and computer technology: *smart missiles; smart machines.* ♦ *intr.v.* **smart-ed, smart-ing, smarts** **1a.** To cause a sharp, usually superficial, stinging pain: *The slap delivered to my face smarted.* **b.** To be the location of such a pain: *The incision on my leg smarts.* **c.** To feel such a pain. **2.** To suffer acutely, as from mental distress, wounded feelings, or remorse: "No creature smarts so little as a fool" (Alexander Pope). ♦ *n.* **1.** Sharp pain or anguish: *the smart of the wound.* **2.** **smarts** Slang Intelligence; expertise: *a reporter with a lot of smarts.* —**phrasal verb:**

smart off Informal To speak or act impertinently. —**idiom:** **right smart** New England & Southern US A lot; a considerable amount: "We have read right smart of that book" (Catherine C. Hopley). [Middle English, stinging, keen, alert < Old English *smear*, causing pain.] —**smart-ly** *adv.* —**smart/ness** *n.*

Smart (smärt), **Christopher** 1722–1771. British poet whose works, such as *A Song to David* and *Jubilate Agno*, published posthumously, express an intense idiosyncratic religious feeling.

smart al-eck (äl'ik) *n.* Informal A person regarded as annoyingly self-assertive, especially for making impudent displays of knowledge. [Perhaps after *Aleck Hoag*, 19th-century American confidence man and thief.] —**smart/-al/eck, smart/-al/eck-y** (-i-kē) *adj.*

smart-ass (smärt'äs') *n.* Vulgar Slang A smart aleck. —**smart/-ass'** *adj.*

smart bomb *n.* A bomb that can be guided by radio waves or a laser beam to its target.

smart card *n.* A plastic card containing a computer chip and enabling the holder to purchase goods and services, enter restricted areas, access medical, financial, or other records, or perform other operations requiring data stored on the chip.

smart drink *n.* Any of various nonalcoholic, usually fruit-based drinks typically containing vitamins and amino acids in a formula reputed to enhance mental functioning.

smart drug *n.* Any of a variety of substances, including certain vitamins, herbs, and prescription drugs, reputed to improve such mental functions as memory and alertness or to lessen or prevent damage to brain cells.

smart-en (smär'tn) *v.* **-ened, -en-ing, -ens** —*tr.* **1.** To improve in appearance or stylishness; spruce up. **2.** To make quicker: *smarten the pace.* —*intr.* To make oneself smart or smarter.

smart money *n.* **1.** Games Bets or a bet placed by experienced gamblers or those having privileged information. **2.** Informal **a.** Experienced, well-informed investors: *Smart money is supporting the conservative presidential candidate.* **b.** Investments made by people experienced and well informed in matters of finance. **3.** Law Punitive damages.

smart-phone (smärt'fōn') *n.* A cell phone that includes features of a PDA, such as applications for reading and sending e-mail, maintaining a calendar, and browsing the web.

smart set *n.* Fashionable people considered as a group.

smart terminal *n.* A terminal that has a microprocessor and therefore has some processing capabilities independent of the host computer. Also called *intelligent terminal*.

smart-weed (smärt'wēd') *n.* Any of various plants of the genera *Persicaria* and *Polygonum*, having sheathlike stipules and small, densely clustered pink, white, or green flowers.

smart-v (smär'tē) *n., pl. -ies* Informal **1.** A smart aleck. **2.** A quick-



Richard Smalley
photographed in 1996