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Vatican City

received protection in return for homage and allegiance. 2. A bondman; a slave. 3. A subordinate or dependent. [Middle English < Old French < Vulgar Latin \**vassallus* < \**vassus*, of Celtic origin; see **upo** in App. I.]

**vas-sal-age** (väs'ä-lj) *n.* 1. The condition of being a vassal. 2. The service, homage, and fealty required of a vassal. 3. A position of subordination or subjection; servitude. 4. The land held by a vassal; a fief. 5. Vassals, especially those of a particular lord, considered as a group.

**Vas-sar** (väs'är), **Matthew** 1792–1868, British-born American merchant and philanthropist who was an advocate of higher education for women and endowed Vassar College (1861).

**vast** (väst) *adj.* **vast-er**, **vast-est** 1. Very great in size, extent, or quantity. See **Synonyms at enormous**. 2. Very great in scope or import: a *vast improvement*. ❖ *n.* **Archaic** An immense space. [Latin *vastus*.] —**vast/ly** *adv.* —**vast/ness** *n.*

**Väs-ter-ås** (väs'to-rös') A city of eastern Sweden west-northwest of Stockholm. Founded before 1000, it was an important medieval city and a center of the Swedish Reformation.

**vas-ti-tude** (väs'ti-tüd', -työd') also **vas-ti-ty** (-tē) *n.* Immensity. [Latin *vastitudo* < *vastus*, *vast*.]

**vast-y** (väs'tē) *adj.* -i-er, -i-est **Archaic** *Vast*.

**vat** (vät) *n.* A large vessel, such as a tub, cistern, or barrel, used to hold or store liquids. ❖ *tr.v.* **vat-ted**, **vat-ting**, **vats** To put into or treat in a vat. [Middle English, variant of *fat* < Old English *fæt*.]

**VAT** *abbr.* value-added tax

**vat dye** *n.* A dye, such as indigo, that produces a fast color by impregnating fiber with a reduced soluble form that is then oxidized to an insoluble form. —**vat-dyed'** *adj.*

**vat-ic** (vät'ik) also **vat-i-cal** (-i-käl) *adj.* Of or characteristic of a prophet; oracular. [Latin *vaticēs*, seer; of Celtic origin; see **wet**<sup>1</sup> in App. I.]

**Vat-i-can** (vät'i-kän) *n.* 1. The official residence of the pope in Vatican City. 2. The papal government; the papacy. [Latin *Vaticānus* (*mōns*), the Vatican (Hill).]

**Vatican City** An independent papal state on the Tiber River within Rome, Italy. Created by the Lateran Treaty signed by Pope Pius XI and Victor Emmanuel III of Italy in 1929, it issues its own currency and postage stamps and has its own newspaper and broadcasting facilities. The government is run by a council of cardinals who are responsible to the pope.

**Vatican Council** *n.* Either of two ecumenical councils of the Roman Catholic Church, the **First Vatican Council** (1869–1870) and the **Second Vatican Council** (1962–1965), convoked by Pius IX and John XXIII, respectively. The First is noted for its affirmation of papal infallibility, and the Second resulted in the revision of most of the liturgy, the replacement of Latin with vernacular languages in rites, and more open relationships with non-Catholic denominations.

**Vat-i-can-ism** (vät'i-kä-niz'm) *n.* The policies and authority of the papacy.

**va-tic-i-nal** (və-tis'ä-näl) *adj.* Prophetic.

**va-tic-i-nate** (və-tis'ä-nät') *v.* -nated, -nating, -nates —*tr.* To prophesy; foretell. —*intr.* To be a prophet. [Latin *vaticinari*, *vaticināt-* < *vaticēs*, seer; see **VATIC**.] —**va-tic'i-na'tion** (-nä'shən) *n.* —**va-tic'i-na'tor** *n.*

**Vat-na-jö-kull** (vät'nä-yöe'kit-, wät'-) A large icecap of southeast Iceland.

**Vät-tern** (vät'örn) A lake of south-central Sweden southeast of Lake Vänern. It is connected with the Baltic Sea by the Göta Canal.

**va-tu** (vät'tōb) *n.* See **table at currency**. [Native word in Vanuatu.]

**vau** (vāv, vōv) *n.* Variant of *vav*.

**vaude-ville** (vōd'vil', vōd'-, vō'dä-) *n.* 1a. Stage entertainment offering a variety of short acts such as slapstick turns, song-and-dance routines, and juggling performances. b. A theatrical performance of this kind; a variety show. 2. A light comic play that often includes songs, pantomime, and dances. 3. A popular, often satirical song. [French, alteration of Old French *vaudevire*, occasional or topical light popular song, possibly short for *chanson du Vau de Vire*, song of Vau de Vire, a valley of northwest France, or perhaps dialectal *vauder*, to go + *vire*, to turn; see **VEER**<sup>1</sup>.]

**vaude-vil-lian** (vōd-vil'yan, vōd-, vō'dä-) *n.* One, especially a performer, who works in vaudeville. —**vaude-vil'lian** *adj.*

**Vau-do-ists** (vō-dwā') *pl.n.* See **Waldenses**. [French < Old French *vau-deis* < Medieval Latin *Waldensēs*; see **WALDENSES**.]

**Vaughan** (vōn), **Henry** Known as "the Silurist" 1622–1695. Welsh metaphysical poet whose works include *Silex Scintillans* (1650–1655).

**Vaughan**, **Sarah** 1924–1990. American jazz singer known for her complex bebop phrasing and her scat-singing virtuosity.

**Vaughan Williams**, **Ralph** 1872–1958. British composer who was influenced by folk tunes and Tudor music. His works include nine symphonies, the ballet *Job* (1930), and the opera *The Pilgrim's Progress* (1951).

**vault**<sup>1</sup> (vōlt) *n.* 1a. An arched structure, usually of masonry or concrete, serving to cover a space. b. An arched overhead covering, such as the sky, that resembles the architectural structure in form. 2. A room or space, such as a cellar or storeroom, with arched walls and ceiling, especially when underground. 3. A room or compartment, often built of steel, for the safekeeping of valuables: a *bank vault*. 4. A burial chamber, especially when underground. 5. **Anatomy** An arched part of the body, especially the top part of the skull. ❖ *tr.v.* **vault-ed**, **vault-ing**, **vaults** 1. To construct or supply with an arched ceiling; cover with a vault. 2. To build or make in the shape of a vault; arch. [Middle English *vauite* < Old French < Vulgar Latin \**volvita*, *volta* < feminine of \**volvitus*, arched, alteration of Latin *volūtus*, past participle of *volvere*, to roll; see **wel**<sup>2</sup>

**vault**<sup>2</sup> (vōlt) *v.* **vault-ed**, **vault-ing**, **vaults** —*tr.* To jump or leap over, especially with the aid of a support such as the hands or a pole. —*intr.* 1. To jump or leap, especially with the use of the hands or a pole. 2. To accomplish something suddenly or vigorously: *vaulted into a position of wealth*. ❖ *n.* 1. The act of vaulting; a jump. 2. A piece of gymnastic equipment with an upholstered body used especially for vaulting. Also called *vaulting horse*. [Obsolete French *volt* < Old French < Old Italian *voltare* < Vulgar Latin \**volvitāre*, frequentative of Latin *volvere*, to turn, roll; see **wel**<sup>2</sup> in App. I.] —**vault'er** *n.*

**vault-ing**<sup>1</sup> (vōlt'ing) *n.* 1. The act or practice of constructing vaults. 2. The method of construction of a vault. 3a. A vault or vaulted structure. b. Such structures considered as a group.

**vault-ing**<sup>2</sup> (vōlt'ing) *adj.* 1. Leaping upward or over something. 2. Reaching too far; exaggerated: *his vaulting ambition*. 3. Employed in jumping over something: a *vaulting pole*.

**vaulting horse** *n.* See **vault**<sup>2</sup> (sense 2).

**vault** (vōnt, vōnt) *v.* **vault-ed**, **vault-ing**, **vaults** —*tr.* To speak or write about (something) in a strongly positive way; praise or boast about. —*intr.* To speak boastfully; brag. See **Synonyms at boast**<sup>1</sup>. ❖ *n.* 1. A boastful remark. 2. Speech of extravagant self-praise. [Middle English *vauten* < Old French *vauter* < Late Latin *vānitāre*, to talk frivolously, frequentative of Latin *vānāre* < *vānus*, empty; see **euā** in App. I.] —**vault'er** *n.* —**vault-ing-ly** *adv.*

**vault-cour-i-er** (vōnt'kōr'tē-är, -kūr't-, vōnt'-) *n.* **Archaic** A person, such as a herald, sent in advance. [Short for obsolete French *avaunt-courier* < Old French *avaunt*, in front; see **VANGUARD** + Old French *courier*, messenger; see **COURIER**.]

**Vaux** (vōks), **Calvert** 1824–1895. British-born American landscape architect who was a designer of Central Park in New York City.

**vāv** also **vau** or **wāv** (vāv, vōv) *n.* The sixth letter of the Hebrew alphabet. See **table at alphabet**. [Hebrew *vāv* < Phoenician \**vāv*, \**vō*, pin (sense uncertain), sixth letter of the Phoenician alphabet.]

**vav-a-sor** also **vav-a-sour** (vāv'ä-sör', -sōr') *n.* A feudal tenant who ranked directly below a baron or peer. [Middle English *vavassor* < Old French < Medieval Latin *vavassor*, possibly contraction of *vassus vassorum*, vassal of vassals; *vassus*, vassal (< Vulgar Latin \**vassus*; see **VASSAL**) + *vassorum*, genitive pl. of *vassus*, vassal.]

**vb.** *abbr.* 1. verb 2. verbal

**VC** *abbr.* 1. venture capitalist 2. vice chancellor 3. vice consul 4. Victoria Cross 5. Vietcong

**V-chip** (vè'chip') *n.* A computer chip installed in a television to allow the user to control the display of certain programs, especially of sexual or violent content. [V(IEWER) and V(IOLENCE) + CHIP<sup>1</sup>.]

**VCR** (vè'sè-är') *n.* An electronic device for recording and playing back video images and sound on a videocassette. [V(IDEO)C(ASSETTE) R(EORDER).]

**VD** *abbr.* 1. vapor density 2. also *v.d.* various dates 3. venereal disease

**V-day** (vè'dä') *n.* A day of victory, as at the conclusion of a war. [V(ICTORY) + DAY.]

**'ve** Contraction of *have*: *I've been invited*.

**Ve-a-dar** (və'ä-där') *n.* See **Adar Shenit**. [Hebrew *wa-ädär*, and *Adar*: *və*-, *və*-, and; see **W** in App. II + *ädär*, *Adar*; see **ADAR**.]

**veal** (vèl) *n.* 1. The meat of a calf. 2. also **veal'er** (vè'lär) A calf raised to be slaughtered for food. [Middle English *veal* < Old French < Latin *vitellus*, diminutive of *vitulus*, calf; see **WET**<sup>2</sup> in App. I.]

**veal-y** (vè'lē) *adj.* -i-er, -i-est 1. Of or like veal. 2. Not fully developed; immature.

**Veblen** (vèblən), **Thorstein Bunde** 1857–1929. American economist who described a fundamental conflict between the provision of goods and the making of money. In his popular study *The Theory of the Leisure Class* (1899) he coined the phrase *conspicuous consumption*.

**vec-tor** (vèk'tər) *n.* 1. **Mathematics** a. A quantity, such as velocity, completely specified by a magnitude and a direction. b. A one-dimensional array. c. An element of a vector space. 2. An organism, such as a mosquito or tick, that carries disease-causing microorganisms from one host to another. 3. A bacteriophage, plasmid, or other agent that transfers genetic material from one cell to another. 4. A force or influence. 5. A course or direction, as of an airplane. ❖ *tr.v.* -tored, -tor-ing, -tors To guide (a pilot or aircraft, for example) by means of radio communication according to vectors. [Latin, carrier < *vehere*, *vect-*, to carry; see **wegh-** in App. I.] —**vec-tor'i-al** (vèk'tōr'ē-äl) *adj.*

**vector boson** *n.* Any of a class of bosons that have one unit of spin, including photons, gluons, W and Z gauge bosons, and the phi, psi, and upsilon mesons.

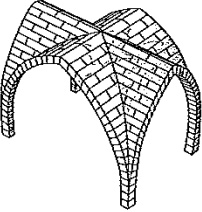
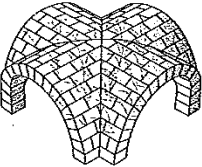
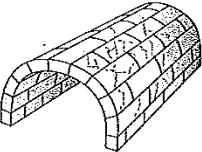
**vector graphic** *n.* A computer image that is stored and displayed in terms of vectors rather than points, allowing for easier scaling and storage.

**vector product** *n.* A vector *c*, depending on two other vectors *a* and *b*, whose magnitude is the product of the magnitude of *a*, the magnitude of *b*, and the sine of the angle between *a* and *b*. Its direction is perpendicular to the plane through *a* and *b* and oriented so that a right-handed rotation about it carries *a* into *b* through an angle not greater than 180°. The notation for *c* is *c* = *a* × *b*. Also called *cross product*.

**vector space** *n.* A system consisting of a set of generalized vectors and a field of scalars, having the same rules for vector addition and scalar multiplication as physical vectors and scalars.

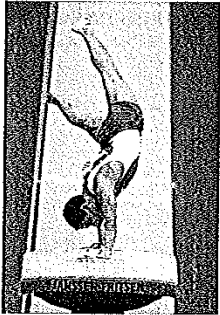
**Ve-dā** (və'dä, vè'-) *n.* 1. The oldest and most authoritative body of sacred Hindu texts, composed in Sanskrit and gathered into four collections. 2. Any of these collections. [Sanskrit *vedāh*, sacred lore, knowledge, *Veda*; see **weid-** in App. I.]

**Ve-dan-ta** (vi-dän'tä, -dän'-) *n.* **Hinduism** The system of philosophy



vault<sup>1</sup>

top to bottom: barrel, groin, and rib vaults



vault<sup>2</sup>

Thomas Bouhail of France at the 2009 European Men's Artistic Gymnastics Championships Milan, Italy

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Vege

Concealed or disguised as if with a veil: "slur-footed ironies, veiled jokes, *tiptoe malices*" (Edith Wharton).

**veiling** (vā'ling) *n.* 1. A veil. 2. Sheer material, such as gauze or fine lace, used for veils.



Diego Velázquez  
c. 1649 self-portrait

**vein** (vān) *n.* 1a. *Anatomy* Any of the membranous tubes that form a branching system and carry blood to the heart from the cells, tissues, and organs of the body. **b.** A blood vessel of any kind; a vein or artery: *felt the blood pounding in her veins*. 2. *Botany* One of the strands of vascular tissue that form the conducting and supporting framework in a leaf or other expanded plant organ. Also called *nerve*. 3. *Zoology* One of the thickened cuticular ribs that form the supporting network of the wing of an insect and that often carry hemolymph. Also called *nerve*. 4. *Geology* A regularly shaped and lengthy occurrence of an ore; a lode. 5. A long wavy strip of a different shade or color, as in wood or marble, or as mold in cheese. 6. A fissure, crack, or cleft. 7. A pervading character or quality; a streak: "All through the interminable narrative there ran a vein of impressive earnestness" (Mark Twain). 8a. A transient attitude or mood. **b.** A particular turn of mind: *spoke later in a more serious vein*. ♦ *tr.v.* **veined**, **veining**, **veins** 1. To supply or fill with veins. 2. To mark or decorate with veins. [Middle English *veine* < Old French < Latin *vēna*.] —*vein'* *al* *adj.*

**veined** (vānd) *adj.* Having veins or showing veinlike markings.

**veining** (vā'ning) *n.* Distribution or arrangement of veins or veinlike markings.

**vein-let** (vān'lit) *n.* A small or secondary vein, as on the wing of an insect.

**vein-stone** (vān'stōn) *n.* Mineral matter in a vein exclusive of the ore; gangue.

**vein-ule** (vān'yool) *n.* A small vein.

**veiny** (vā'nē) *adj.* -ier, -iest Full of or exhibiting veins; veined.

**vel.** *abbr.* 1. *velum* 2. *velocity*

**ve-la** (vē'lā) *n.* Plural of *velum*.

**Ve-la** (vē'lā, vā'-) *n.* A constellation in the Southern Hemisphere near Puyis and Carina. [Latin *vēla*, pl. of *vēlum*, sail (so called because it formed the sails of the formerly recognized constellation Argo Navis, considered to represent Jason's ship, the Argo).]

**ve-la-men** (vā-lā'mon) *n.*, pl. -lām-i-na (-lām'ō-nā) 1. *Anatomy* A membranous covering or partition; *velum*. 2. *Botany* A spongy layer of dead cells that covers the aerial roots of most orchids and certain other plants and may serve to absorb atmospheric moisture. [Latin *vēlāmen*, covering < *vēlāre*, to cover < *vēlum*, a covering.] —*ve-la-men'tous* (vē'lō-mēn'tas) *adj.*

**ve-lar** (vē'lār) *adj.* 1a. Of or relating to a *velum*. **b.** Concerning or using the soft palate. 2. Articulated with the back of the tongue touching or near the soft palate, as (g) in *good* and (k) in *king*. ♦ *n.* A velar consonant.

**ve-lar-i-um** (vā-lār'ē-əm) *n.*, pl. -i-a (-ē-ā) A large awning, especially one suspended over a Roman theater or amphitheater. [Latin *vēlārium* < *vēlum*, sail, sheet, curtain.]

**ve-lar-ize** (vē'lār-iz') *tr.v.* -ized, -iz-ing, -iz-es To articulate (a sound) by retracting the back of the tongue toward the soft palate. —*ve-lar-i-za'tion* (-lār-i-zā'shən) *n.*

**ve-late** (vē'lāt', lit) *adj.* *Biology* Having or covered by a *velum* or veil.

**Ve-láz-quez** (vā-lās'kēs, bē-lāth'kēth), **Diego Rodríguez de Silva y 1599–1660.** Spanish painter whose works, including portraits, notably of Pope Innocent X (1650), historical scenes, such as *The Surrender of Breda* (1635), still lifes, and genre scenes, display his extraordinary technique and mastery of light.

**Vel-cro** (vēl'krō) A trademark for a fastening tape consisting of a strip of nylon with a surface of minute hooks that fasten to a corresponding strip with a surface of uncut pile.

**veld** also **veldt** (vēlt, fēlt) *n.* Any of the open grazing areas of southern Africa. [Afrikaans < Middle Dutch, field; see *pe-lō*-2 in App. I.]

**Ve-lij-a** (vē'lē-ā) See *Elea*.

**ve-li-ger** (vē'lē-jēr, vē'lē-ǰ-) *n.* A larval mollusk that is free-swimming and has a *velum*. [New Latin *velliger*: Latin *vēlum*, *velum*; see *VELUM* + Latin *gerere*, to bear.]

**vel-le-i-ty** (vē-lē'i-tē, vā-) *n.*, pl. -ties 1. Weak desire or *velum*. 2. A slight or weak wish or inclination: "He felt cast out . . . divorced from the caprices and the *velleities* of childhood" (Anita Brookner). [New Latin *velleitas* < Latin *velle*, to wish; see *wel*-1 in App. I.]

**vel-lum** (vē'ləm) *n.* 1a. A fine parchment made from calfskin, lamb-skin, or kidskin and used for the pages and binding of books. **b.** A work written or printed on this parchment. 2. A heavy off-white fine-quality paper resembling this parchment. [Middle English *velim* < Old French *velin* < *veel*, calf; see *VEAL*.]

**vel-lus** (vē'ləs) *n.* The fine hair present on the body before puberty. [Latin, wool.]

**ve-lō-cē** (vā-lō'chā) *adv.* *Music* Rapidly. Used chiefly as a direction. [Italian < Latin *vēlōx*, *vēlōc*-, rapid; see *VELOCITY*.]

**ve-lō-cim-e-ter** (vē'lō-sim'i-tār, vē'lō-ō-) *n.* A device for measuring the speed of sound in water. [VELOCITY + -METER.]

**ve-lō-cy-cle-pede** (vā-lōs'ā-pēd') *n.* 1. A tricycle. 2a. Any of several early bicycles having pedals attached to the front wheel. **b.** An early bicycle propelled by pushing the feet along the ground while straddling the vehicle. [French *vélocipède*: Latin *vēlōx*, *vēlōc*-, fast; see *VELOCITY* + Latin *pēs*, *ped*-, foot; see -PED.]

**ve-lō-cy-rap-tor** (vā-lōs'ā-rāp'tōr) *n.* A small carnivorous theropod dinosaur of the genus *Velociraptor* of the Cretaceous Period, having sickle-shaped talons and a long flat snout with sharp teeth. [New Latin *Velociraptor*, genus name: Latin *vēlōx*, *vēlōc*-, fast; see *VELOCITY* + Latin

**ve-lō-cy-tize** (vā-lōs'i-tīz') *intr.* & *tr.v.* -tized, -tiz-ing, -tiz-es To become or cause to become accustomed to traveling at a high speed so that when entering a zone in which the speed limit is reduced, especially a highway exit ramp, the driver tends to drive too fast. [Probably *VELOCIT*(Y) + -IZE.]

**ve-lō-cy-ty** (vā-lōs'i-tē) *n.*, pl. -ties 1. Rapidity or speed of motion; swiftness. 2. *Physics* A vector quantity whose magnitude is a body's speed and whose direction is the body's direction of motion. 3a. The rate of speed of action or occurrence. **b.** The rate at which money changes hands in an economy. [Middle English *velocite* < Old French < Latin *vēlōcītās* < *vēlōx*, *vēlōc*-, fast; see *weg*- in App. I.]

**ve-lō-drome** (vē'lā-drōm', vē'lō-) *n.* A sports arena with a banked oval track for bicycle and motorcycle racing. [French *vélodrome*: *vélo*(*cipède*), *velocipede*; see *VELOCIPÈDE* + -drome, racecourse (< Latin -dromus; see -DROME).]

**ve-lour** or **ve-lours** (vā-lōor') *n.*, pl. -lours (-lōorz') 1. A closely napped fabric resembling velvet, used chiefly for clothing and upholstery. 2. A felt resembling velvet, used in making hats. [Alteration of French *velours*, velvet < Old French *velour*, alteration of *velous* < Old Provençal *velos* < Latin *villōsus*, hairy < *villus*, shaggy hair.]

**ve-lou-té** (vā-lō-tā') *n.* A white sauce made of chicken, veal, or fish stock thickened with a roux of flour and butter. [French < Old French *vellute*, velvety < *velous*, velvet; see *VELOUR*.]

**ve-lum** (vē'ləm) *n.*, pl. -la (-lā) 1. *Biology* A covering or partition of thin membranous tissue, such as the veil of a mushroom, a rim of tissue around the margin of the bell of certain cnidarians, or a membrane of the brain. 2. *Anatomy* The soft palate. 3. *Zoology* A ciliated swimming and feeding organ that develops in certain larval stages of most gastropod and bivalve mollusks. [Latin *vēlum*, veil.]

**ve-lu-ti-nous** (vā-lōt'i-n-əs) *adj.* Covered with dense, soft, silky hairs. [*<* New Latin *velutinus* < Medieval Latin *velūtum*, velvet < Vulgar Latin \**villūtus*; see *VELVET*.]

**vel-vet** (vēl'vēt) *n.* 1. A soft fabric having a smooth, dense pile and a plain underside. 2a. Something suggesting the smooth surface of velvet. **b.** Smoothness; softness. 3. The soft, furry covering on the developing antlers of deer. 4. *Informal a.* The winnings of a gambler. **b. A profit or gain beyond what is expected or due. 5. *New England* See *milk shake* (sense 1). [Middle English *velvet*, probably < Old Provençal < Vulgar Latin \**villūtittus*, diminutive of \**villūtus* < Latin *villus*, shaggy hair, nap.]**

**velvet ant** *n.* Any of numerous brightly colored parasitic wasps of the family Mutillidae, whose females are wingless and have a coat of velvety hair.

**vel-vet-teen** (vēl'vē-tēn) *n.* A cotton pile fabric resembling velvet. [*<* *VELVET*.]

**vel-vet-leaf** (vēl'vēt-lēf) *n.* A tropical Asian annual herb (*Abutilon theophrasti*) that has large velvety heart-shaped leaves and yellow flowers and is cultivated in China for fiber. It is a widely naturalized weed in North America and Europe.

**velvet plant** *n.* Any of several plants with velvety hairs on the leaves, such as mullein or the ornamental houseplant *Gynura aurantiaca*, a vine native to Java.

**velvet worm** *n.* See *onychophoran*.

**vel-vet-y** (vēl'vē-tē) *adj.* -ier, -iest 1. Suggestive of the texture of velvet; soft and smooth: *velvety skin*. 2. Smooth-tasting; mellow: *a velvety sherry*.

**Ven.** *abbr.* *venerable*

**ven-** *pref.* Variant of *veno-*.

**ve-na** (vē'nā) *n.*, pl. -nae (-nē) *Anatomy* A vein. [Middle English < Latin *vēna*.]

**vena ca-va** (kā'vā) *n.*, pl. *venae ca-vae* (kā'vē) Either of two large veins that drain blood from the upper body and from the lower body and empty into the right atrium of the heart. [New Latin *vēna cava*: Latin *vēna*, vein + Latin *cava*, hollow.] —*vena ca'val* (-vāl) *adj.*

**ve-nal** (vē'nāl) *adj.* 1a. Open to bribery; mercenary: *a venal police officer*. **b.** Characterized by corrupt dealings, especially bribery: *a venal arrangement between the police and the drug dealers*. 2. Archaic Obtainable for a price. [Latin *vēnālis* < *vēnum*, sale; see *wes*-3 in App. I.] —*ve-nal-ly* *adv.*

**ve-nal-i-ty** (vē-nāl'i-tē) *n.*, pl. -ties 1. The condition of being susceptible to bribery or corruption. 2. The use of a position of trust for dishonest gain.

**ve-nat-ic** (vē-nāt'ik) also **ve-nat-i-cal** (-i-kāl) *adj.* 1. Of or relating to hunting. 2. Engaging in hunting for sport or livelihood. [Latin *vēnāticus* < *vēnātus*, past participle of *vēnārī*, to hunt; see *wen*-1 in App. I.]

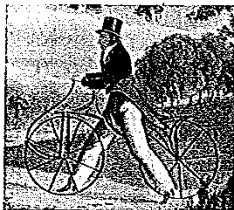
**ve-na-tion** (vē-nā'shən, vē-) *n.* 1. Distribution or arrangement of a system of veins, as in a leaf blade or the wing of an insect. 2. The veins of such a system considered as a group. —*ve-na'tion-al* *adj.*

**vend** (vēnd) *v.* **vend-ed**, **vend-ing**, **vends** —*tr.* 1. To offer for sale, especially by peddling. 2. To supply (a product or service) to a business for a fee. —*intr.* To engage in selling. [Latin *vēndere*, shortening of *vēnumdare*: *vēnum*, sale; see *wes*-3 in App. I + *dare*, to give; see *dō*- in App. I.]

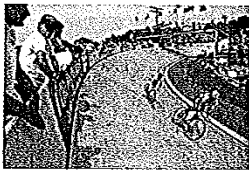
**Ven-da** (vēn'dā) *n.* 1. A member of a people of northeast South Africa constituting the principal inhabitants of a former self-governing black homeland of the same name. 2. The Bantu language of the Venda.

**vend-a-ble** (vēn'dā-bəl) *adj.* Variant of *vendible*.

**ven-dace** (vēn'dis, -dās) *n.*, pl. *vendace* or *-daces* Either of two small whitefishes, *Coregonus albus* of northern Europe or *C. vandesius* of England and Scotland. [Probably French *vandoise*, a kind of fish < Old French *vendoise*, probably of Celtic origin.]



velocipede



velodrome  
Trexertown, Pennsylvania



venation  
of a sweet gum leaf