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College Dictionary

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automatic pilot

avail

**n.** 1. An automatic machine or device. 2a. An automatic firearm. b. A semiautomatic firearm. 3. A transmission or a motor vehicle with an automatic gear-shifting mechanism. —*Idiom:* on automatic Functioning by or as if by automatic machine or device. [*< Gk. automatos: auto-, auto- + -matos, willing; see men-1 in App.*] —*au'to-mat'i-cal-ly* *adv.* —*au'to-mat'i-ci-ty* (-măt-si-tē) *n.*

**automatic pilot** *n.* 1. A navigation mechanism, as on an aircraft, that automatically maintains a preset course. 2. A state of mind in which one acts without deliberate effort or self-awareness.

**automatic writing** *n.* Writing performed without conscious thought, typically by spontaneous free association or as a spiritual medium.

**au'to-mat-ion** (ô'tô-măt-shən) *n.* 1. The automatic operation or control of equipment, a process, or a system. 2. The techniques and equipment used to achieve automatic operation or control. 3. The condition of being automatically controlled or operated. [*< AUTOMATIC.*]

**au'to-mat-ism** (ô-tôm'ă-tiz'əm) *n.* 1a. The state or quality of being automatic. b. Automatic mechanical action. 2. *Philosophy* The theory that the body is a machine whose functions are accompanied but not controlled by consciousness. 3. *Physiology a.* The involuntary functioning of a body structure that is not under conscious control, such as the beating of the heart. b. The reflexive action of a body part. 4. *Psychology* Mechanical, seemingly aimless behavior characteristic of various mental disorders. [*< Lat. automaton, automaton. See AUTOMATON.*] —*au'tom'ă-tist* *n.*

**au'to-mat-ize** (ô-tôm'ă-tiz'ē) *tr. v.* -tized, -tizing, -tizes 1. To make automatic. 2. To turn into an automaton. [*< AUTOMATIC.*] —*au'tom'ă-tiz'a-tion* (-tī-ză'shən) *n.*

**au'to-mat-on** (ô-tôm'ă-tən, -tôn') *n., pl. -tons or -ta* (-tə) 1. A self-operating machine or mechanism, esp. a robot. 2. One that behaves or responds in a mechanical way. [*Lat., self-operating machine < Gk. < neut. of automatos, self-acting. See AUTOMATIC.*] —*au'tom'ă-tous* *adj.*

**au'to-mo-bile** (ô'tô-mô-bēl', -mô'bēl') *n.* A self-propelled passenger vehicle that usu. has four wheels and an internal-combustion engine, used for land transport. [*Fr.: Gk. auto-, auto- + Fr. mobile, mobile < OFr.; see MOBILE.*] —*au'to-mo-bile*' *adj.* —*au'to-mo-bil-ist* *n.*

**au'to-mo-tive** (ô'tô-mô-tiv) *adj.* 1. Moving by itself; self-propelling or self-propelled. 2. Relating to self-propelled vehicles.

**au'to-nom-ic** (ô'tô-nôm'ik) *adj.* 1. *Physiology a.* Of, relating to, or controlled by the autonomic nervous system. b. Occurring involuntarily; automatic. 2. Resulting from internal stimuli; spontaneous. —*au'to-nom'ic-al-ly* *adv.*

**autonomic nervous system** *n.* The part of the vertebrate nervous system that regulates involuntary action, as of the intestines, heart, and glands.

**au'to-nom-i-ous** (ô-tôn'ô-mas) *adj.* 1. Not controlled by others or by outside forces; independent. 2. Independent in mind or judgment; self-directed. 3a. Independent of the laws of another state or government; self-governing. b. Of or relating to a self-governing entity. c. Self-governing with respect to local or internal affairs: *an autonomous region of a country.* 4. Autonomic. [*< Gk. autonomos: auto-, auto- + nomos, law; see nem- in App.*] —*au'ton'om-i-ous-ly* *adv.*

**au'to-nom-y** (ô-tôn'ô-mē) *n., pl. -mies* 1. The condition or quality of being autonomous. 2a. Self-government or the right of self-government; self-determination. b. Self-government with respect to local or internal affairs. 3. A self-governing state, community, or group. [*Gk. autonomia < autonomos, self-ruling. See AUTONOMOUS.*] —*au'ton'om-ist* *n.*

**au'to-nym** (ô'tô-nim') *n.* A name by which a people or social group refers to itself. [*AUT(O)- + -ONYM.*]

**au'to-pen** (ô'tô-pēn') *n.* A mechanical device used for writing imitations of a personal signature.

**au'to-ph-a-gy** (ô-tôf'ă-jē) *n.* The process of self-digestion of a cell through the action of its own enzymes.

**au'to-pi-lot** (ô'tô-pi'lot) *n.* Automatic pilot. —*Idiom:* on autopilot *Informal* Without conscious thought or effort.

**au'to-plas'ty** (ô'tô-plăs'tē) *n.* Surgical repair or reconstruction of a body part using tissue taken from another part of the body. —*au'to-plas'tic* *adj.* —*au'to-plas'ti-cal-ly* *adv.*

**au'to-pol-y-ploid** (ô'tô-pôl'ă-ploid') *adj.* Having more than two sets of chromosomes all derived from the same species. ♦ *n.* An autopolyploid organism. —*au'to-pol'y-ploi'dy* *n.*

**au'top-sy** (ô'tôp'sē, ô'tap-) *n., pl. -sies* 1. Examination of a cadaver to determine or confirm the cause of death. 2. A critical assessment or examination after the fact. ♦ *tr. v.* -sied, -sying, -sies To subject to an autopsy. [*Gk. autopsia, a seeing for oneself: auto-, auto- + opsia, sight; see ok- in App.*] —*au'top'sic*, *au'top'si-cal* *adj.* —*au'top'sist* *n.*

**au'to-ra-di-o-gram** (ô'tô-ră'dē-ô-grăm') *n.* See autoradiograph.

**au'to-ra-di-o-graph** (ô'tô-ră'dē-ô-grăf') *n.* An image recorded on a photographic film or plate produced by the radiation emitted from a specimen containing a radioactively labeled isotope. —*au'to-ra'di-o-graph'ic* *adj.* —*au'to-ra'di-og'ra-phy* (-ôg'ră-fē) *n.*

**au'to-route** (ô'tô-rôôt') *n.* An expressway in France and French-speaking countries. [*Fr.: auto, automobile; see AUTO + route, road (< OFr.; see ROUTE).*]

**au'to-some** (ô'tô-sôm') *n.* A chromosome that is not a sex chromosome. —*au'to-so'mal* (-sô'məl) *adj.* —*au'to-so'mal-ly* *adv.*

**au'to-strada** (ô'tô-stră'dă, ou'tô-) *n.* An expressway in Italy. [*Ital.: auto, automobile; see AUTO + strada, street (< LLat. strata, paved road; see STREET).*]

**au'to-sug-ges-tion** (ô'tô-săg-jēs'chən) *n.* *Psychology* The process by which a person induces self-acceptance of an opinion, belief, or plan of action. —*au'to-sug-gest'* *v.* —*au'to-sug-gest'i-bil'i-ty* (-ə-bil'i-tē) *n.* —*au'to-sug-gest'i-ble* *adj.* —*au'to-sug-ges-tive* (-tīv) *adj.*

**au'to-tom-y** (ô-tôt'ô-mē) *n.* The spontaneous casting off of a body part, such as the tail of certain lizards, esp. when the organism is injured or under attack. —*au'to-tom'ic* (ô'tô-tôm'ik), *au'to-tom-i-ous* *adj.* —*au'to-tom-ize'* *v.*

**au'to-tox-e-mi-a** also *au'to-tox-ae-mi-a* (ô'tô-tôk-sē'mē-ə) *n.* See autointoxication.

**au'to-tox-in** (ô'tô-tôk'sin) *n.* A poison that acts on the organism in which it is generated. —*au'to-tox'ic* *adj.*

**au'to-trans-form-er** (ô'tô-trăns-fôr'mər) *n.* An electrical transformer in which the primary and secondary coils have some or all windings in common.

**au'to-troph** (ô'tô-trôf', -trôf') *n.* An organism capable of synthesizing its own food from inorganic substances, using light or chemical energy. —*au'to-troph'ic* (-trôf'ik, -trôf'ik) *adj.* —*au'to-troph'i-cal-ly* *adv.* —*au'to-tro'phy* (ô-tôt'rô-fē) *n.*

**au'to-work-er** (ô'tô-wûr'kər) *n.* A worker in the automobile industry.

**au'tumn** (ô'təm) *n.* 1. The season of the year between summer and winter, lasting from the autumnal equinox to the winter solstice and from September to December in the Northern Hemisphere; fall. 2. A period of maturity verging on decline. ♦ *adj.* 1. Of, having to do with, occurring in, or appropriate to the season of autumn. 2. Grown during the season of autumn. [*ME autumpne < OFr. autumpne < Lat. autumnus.*] —*au'tum'nal* (ô-tüm'nəl) *adj.* —*au'tum'nal-ly* *adv.*

**autumnal equinox** *n.* 1. The point at which the ecliptic intersects the celestial equator, the sun having a southerly motion. 2. The moment at which the sun passes through the autumnal equinox, about September 23, marking the beginning of autumn in the Northern Hemisphere.

**autumn crocus** *n.* A corm-producing European and North African plant (*Colchicum autumnale*) with flowers in the fall.

**au-tun-ite** (ô-tün'it', ô'tă-nit) *n.* A yellowish fluorescent minor ore of uranium with the composition Ca(UO<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(PO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>·10-12H<sub>2</sub>O. [*After Autun, a city of E-central France.*]

**Au-vergne** (ô-vûrn', ô-vêrn') A historical region and former province of central France traversed by the Auvergne Mountains, a chain of extinct volcanoes.

**aux.** *abbr.* 1. auxiliary 2. auxiliary verb  
**aux-e-sis** (ôg-zē'sis, ôk-sē'-) *n.* Growth resulting from increase in cell size without cell division. [*Gk. auxesis, growth < auxainein, auxē-, to grow.*] —*aux-et'ic* (ôg-zēt'ik) *adj.* —*aux-et'i-cal-ly* *adv.*

**aux-i-li-a-ry** (ôg-zil'yo-re, -zil'ô-re) *adj.* 1. Giving assistance or support; helping. 2. Acting as a subsidiary; supplementary: *the main library and its auxiliary branches.* 3. Held in or used as a reserve: *an auxiliary power generator.* 4. *Nautical* Equipped with a motor as well as sails. 5. *Grammar* Of, relating to, or being an auxiliary verb. ♦ *n., pl. -ries* 1. An individual or group that assists or functions in a supporting capacity. 2. A member of a foreign body of troops serving a country in war. 3. *Grammar* An auxiliary verb. 4. *Nautical a.* A sailing vessel equipped with a motor. b. A vessel that is designed for and used in instances and services other than combat. [*ME < Lat. auxiliarius < auxilium, help.*]

**auxiliary verb** *n.* A verb, such as *have, can, or will*, that accompanies the main verb in a clause and helps make distinctions in mood, voice, aspect, and tense.

**aux-in** (ôk'sin) *n.* Any of several plant hormones that regulate various functions, including cell elongation. [*< Gk. auxein, to grow.*] —*aux'in'ic* *adj.* —*aux'in'i-cal-ly* *adv.*

**aux-i-o-troph** (ôk'sô-trôf', -trôf') *n.* An auxotrophic organism. [*Back-formation < AUXOTROPHIC.*]

**aux-i-o-troph-ic** (ôk'sô-trôf'ik, -trôf'ik) *adj.* Requiring one or more specific substances for growth and metabolism that can no longer be synthesized because of mutational changes. [*Gk. auxein, to increase.*]

**aux. v. abbr.** auxiliary verb

**AV** (äv, ôv) also **Ab** (ăb, äv, ôv) *n.* The 11th month of the year in the Jewish calendar. See *table at calendar*. [*Mishnaic Heb. 'ab < Akkadian abu, a month name (July/August).*]

**AV** *abbr.* 1. audio-visual 2. Authorized Version  
**av. abbr.** 1. Av. avenue 2. average 3. avoirdupois

**a.v. or a/v** *abbr.* ad valorem  
**a-vail** (ô-väl') *v.* **a-valled, a-vail-ing, a-vaills** —*tr.* To be of use or advantage to; help: *Nothing could avail the dying patient.* —*in-tr.* To be of use, value, or advantage; serve. ♦ *n.* Use, benefit, or advantage: *labored to no avail.* —*Idiom:* avail (oneself) of To

ă	pat	oi	boy
ā	pay	ou	out
â	care	ôo	took
ā	father	ôo	boot
ē	pet	û	cut
ē	be	ûr	urge
î	pit	th	thin
î	pie	th	this
îr	pier	hw	which
ô	pot	zh	vision
ô	toe	ə	about
ô	paw	ibem	item

**Stress marks:**  
' (primary);  
˘ (secondary), as in  
**lexicon** (lĕk'sĭ-kŏn')