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FOURTH EDITION



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s certain leafstalks or the bodies of many fishes.

compressed air n. Air under greater than atmospheric pressure, esp when used to power a mechanical device or provide a porta-

tom:press'i-ble (kəm-press'a-bəl) adj. That can be compressed.

-com:press'i-ble/i+ty, com:press'i-ble*ness n.

com·pres·sion (kəm-presh/ən) n. 1a. The act or process of impressing. b. The state of being compressed. 2a. The process which the working substance in a heat engine is compressed. b. The engine cycle during which this process occurs. 3. Computer Science The process by which data is compressed into a form that minimizes the space required to store or transmit it. -com•pres/sion•al adj.

compression ratio *n*. In an internal combustion engine, the ratio of the volume between the piston and cylinder head before and after a compression stroke.

compression wave n. A wave propagated by means of the compression of a fluid, as a sound wave.

com·pres·sive (kəm-pres/iv) adj. Serving to or able to comcom·pres·sor (kəm-pres/ər) n. One that compresses, esp. a ma-

chine used to compress gases.

com·prise (kəm-priz') tr.v. -prised, -pris·ing, -pris·es 1. To consist of; be composed of. 2. To include; contain. 3. Usage Prob-Im To compose; constitute. [ME comprisen < OFr. compris, p. part. of comprendre, to include < Lat. comprehendere, comprendere. See COMPREHEND.] —com•pris/a•ble adj.

USAGE NOTE In strict usage, the whole comprises the parts; the parts compose the whole: The Union comprises 50 states. Fifty state compose the Union. Despite this rule, comprise is increas-agy used in place of compose, especially in the passive (The Union is comprised of 50 states), and our surveys show that oppostion to this usage is abating. In the 1960s, 53 percent of the Usage Panel found this usage unacceptable, but in 1996, only 35 percent objected. See Usage Note at include.

com·pro·mise (kŏm/prə-mīz') n. 1a. A settlement of differences in which each side makes concessions, b. The result of such a settlement. 2. Something that combines qualities or elements of different things. 3. A concession to something detrimental or perorative: a moral compromise. * v. -mised, -mis•ing, -mis•es -tr. 1. To settle by concessions. 2. To expose or make liable to danger, suspicion, or disrepute. 3. Obsolete To pledge mutually. -intr. To make a compromise. [ME compromis < OFr. < Lat. compromissum, mutual promise < neut. p. part. of compromittere, so promise mutually : com-, com- + promittere, to promise; see roomse.]—com/pro·mis/er n.

comp time n. Informal Compensatory time.

Comp*ton (kömp*ton) A city of S CA, a suburb between Los Angeles and Long Beach. Pop. 93,493.

Compton, Arthur Holly 1892-1962. Amer. physicist who shared 1927 Nobel Prize.

competroleler (kən-tro/lər, kömp-tro/- kömp/tro/-) n. Variant of controller 2.

com·pul·sion (kəm-pul/shən) n. 1a. The act of compelling, b. The state of being compelled. 2a. An irresistible impulse to act, regardless of the rationality of the motivation. b. An act or acts performed in response to such an impulse. [ME < OFr. < LLat. npulsio, compulsion- < Lat. compulsus, p. part. of compellere, to

compel. See COMPEL.]

com:pul•sive (kəm-pul•siv) adj. 1. Having the capacity to compel. 2. Psychology Caused or conditioned by compulsion or obsesson. • n. A person with behavior patterns governed by a compulsion. —com•pul/sive•ly adv. —com•pul/sive•ness, com/pul-siv/i•ty (köm/pŭl-siv/i-tĕ, kəm-) n. com•pul-so•ry (kəm-pŭl/sə-rē) adj. 1. Obligatory; required. 2.

Employing or exerting compulsion; coercive. - ly adv. —com•pul/so•ri•ness n. -com•pul/so•ri•

com·punc·tion (kam-pungk/shan) n. 1. A strong uneasiness caused by a sense of guilt. 2. A sting of conscience or a pang of doubt aroused by wrongdoing. [ME compunctioun < OFr. compontion (Llat. compunctio, compunction-, sting of conscience, puncture (Lat. compunctus, p. part. of compungere, to sting: acm-, intensive pref.; see COM- + pungere, to prick.]—com-punctious (-shas) adj.—com-punctious-ly adv. com-pu-ta-tion (kōm/pyoo-tā/shən) n. 1a. The act or process

of computing. b. A method of computing. 2. The result of comruting. 3. The act of operating a computer. —com'pu•ta/tion•al adj. —com'pu•ta/tion•al•ly adv.

com·pute (kam-pyoot/) v. -put·ed, -put·ing, -putes —tr. 1. To determine by mathematics, esp. by numerical methods. 2. To determine by the use of a computer. —intr. 1. To determine an amount or number. 2. To use a computer. \bigstar n. Computation. Fr. computer < OFr., Lat. computare: com-, com-+ putare, to teckon. N., LLat. computus < Lat. computare, to compute.]
-com-put/a-bil/i-ty n. —com-put/a-bile adj.

comeputer (kam-pyoo'tar) n. 1. A device that computes, esp. a programmable electronic machine that performs high-speed opcrations or assembles, stores, correlates, or otherwise processes information. 2. One who computes.

computer age n. The current era as characterized by the devel-

opment, applications, and social consequences of computer tech-

computer graphics n. (used with a sing. or pl. verb) 1. The set of technologies used to create art with computers. 2. Art or designs created using such technologies.

com·put·er·ist (kəm-pyoo/tər-ist) n. One who uses a computer or is enthusiastic about computer technology.

com•put•er•ize (kəm-pyōō/tə-rīz/) tr.v. -ized, -iz•ing, -iz•es

1. To furnish with a computer or computer system. 2. To enter, process, or store (information) in a computer or system of computers. —com*put'er*iz'a*ble adj. —com*put'er*iza'tion (-tər-ĭ-zā'shən) n

com·put·er·ized axial tomography (kəm-pyoo/tə-rīzd') n. Tomography in which computer analysis of a series of cross-sectional scans made along a single axis of a body structure or tissue is used to construct a three-dimensional image of that structure. computer literacy n. The ability to use a computer and its soft-

ware to accomplish practical tasks. —computer literate *adj.* computer science *n*. The study of computer technology, including hardware and software. —computer scientist n.

computer virus n. A computer program designed to corrupt a computer's memory or cause another program to malfunction, usu. by copying itself repeatedly.

Comr. abbr. commissioner

com·rade (kom/rad', -rad) n. 1. A person who shares one's interests or activities; a friend or companion. 2. often Commade A fellow member of a group, esp. a fellow member of the Communist Party. [Fr. camarade < OFr., roommate < OSpan. camarada, barracks company, roommate < camara, room < LLat. camera. See CHAMBER.]—com/rade·ship/ n.

WORD HISTORY A comrade can be socially or politically close, a closeness found at the etymological heart of the word comrade. Spanish preserved the Latin word camara, with its Late Latin meaning "chamber, room," and formed the derivative camarada, with the sense "roommates, especially barrack mates," Camarada, then came to have the general sense "companion." English comrade, first recorded in the 16th century, came from Spanish and French, French having borrowed from Spanish. The political sense of *comrade*, now associated with Communism, had its origin in the late-19th-century use of the word as a title by socialists and communists in order to avoid such forms of address as mister. This usage, which originated in France during the French Revolution, is first recorded in English in 1884.

com·rade·ry (kom/rad-re, -ra-da-, -rad-re) n. Camaraderie; comradeship. [Alteration (influenced by COMRADE) of CAMARADE-

Com'stock (kom'stok', kum'-), Anthony 1844-1915. Amer. reformer notorious for his moral crusades against books and art that he considered obscene.

Com·stock·er·y (kŏm'stŏk'ə-rē, kŭm'-) n. Censorship of literature and other forms of expression because of perceived im-

morality or obscenity. [After Anthony COMSTOCK.]

Comstock Lode A rich vein of gold and silver discovered in 1859 at Virginia City in W NV.

Comte (kônt), (Isidore) Auguste (Marie François) 1798-1857. French philosopher known as the founder of positivism and sociology. —Com'ti•an (kôn'tē-ən, kŏm'-) adj. —Com'tism (kŏm'tĭz'əm) n. —Com'tist (kŏm'tĭst) n.

con¹ (kŏn) adv. In opposition or disagreement; against. � n. 1. An argument or opinion against something. 2. One who holds an opposing opinion or view. [Short for CONTRA.]

con2 (kŏn) tr.v. conned, con•ning, cons 1. To study, peruse, or examine carefully. **2.** To learn or commit to memory. [ME *connen*, to know < OE *cunnan*. See **gnō**- in App.] —**con'ner** n.

con3 or conn (kon) Nautical tr.v. conned, con-ning, cons or conns To direct the steering or course of (a vessel). \bigstar n. 1. The station or post of the person who steers a vessel. 2. The act or process of steering a vessel. [< cond < ME conduen < OFr. con-

duire < Lat. condûcere, to lead together. See CONDUCE.]

con⁴ (kön) Slang tr.v. conned, con-ning, cons To swindle (a victim) by first winning his or her confidence; dupe. * n. A swindle. * adj. Of, relating to, or involving a swindle or a fraud: a con artist. [Short for CONFIDENCE.]

con5 (kŏn) n. Slang A convict. con. abbr. 1. concerto 2. Latin conjunx (wife) 3. consolidate 4. Con. consul 5. continued

con- pref. Variant of com-. Con-a-kry (kŏn/a-krē) The cap. of Guinea, in the SW part on the Atlantic Ocean, Pop. 600,000.

con a·mo·re (kŏn' ə-môr'ē, -mōr'-, kōn' ä-mō'rā) adv. 1. Music Lovingly; tenderly. 2. With devotion or zeal. [Ital. : con, with + amore, love.]

Co-nant (ko/nant), James Bryant 1893-1978. Amer. educator who was president of Harvard University (1933–53). **co•na•tion** (kō-nā/shən) n. Psychology The aspect of mental

processes or behavior directed toward action or change. [Lat. cōnātiō, cōnātiōn-, effort < cōnātus, p. part. of cōnārī, to try.] —co• na/tion·al, co/na·tive (kō/na-tǐv, kŏn/a-) adj.

con bri·o (kon bre/o, kon) adv. Music With great energy; vigorously. [Ital.: con, with + brio, vigor.]

295

compressed air

con brio



compound eye close-up of the eyes of a horsefly

ă	pat	oi	boy
ā	pay	ou	out
âr	care	ŏŏ	took
ä	father	\overline{oo}	boot
ĕ	pet	ŭ	cut
ē	be	ûr	urge
ĭ	pit	th	thin
ĩ	pie	th	this
îr	pier	hw	which
ŏ	pot	zh	vision
ō	toe	Э	about
ô	paw		item

Stress marks: (primary); ' (secondary), as in

lexicon (lěk/sĭ-kŏn/)

2. A message or messages sent or received by such a system. --mailed, -mail • ing, -mails To send (a message) by such a system. LECTRONIC) MAIL.

m·a·lan·ge·ni (ĕm'ə-läng-gĕn'ē) n. Plural of lilangeni.

tm·a·nate (ĕm/ə-nāt') intr. & tr.v. -nat·ed, -nat·ing, -nates To come or send forth, as from a source. See Syns at stem¹. [Lat. manare, emanat-, to flow out : e-, ex-, ex- + manare, to flow.]

-em'a·na·tive adj. tm·a·na·tion (čm'ə-nā/shən) n. 1. The act or an instance of anating. 2a. Something that issues from a source; an emission.

b. Chemistry An isotope of radon. Not in scientific use.

*man*ci*pate (I-man*sp-pat*) tr.v. -pat*ed, -pat*ing, -pates 1. To free from bondage, oppression, or restraint; liberate. 2. Law To release (a child) from the control of parents or a guardian. Lat *\tilde{e}mancip\tilde{a}re, \tilde{e}mancip\tilde{a}te: \tilde{e}-, \tilde{e}x-, \tilde{e}x-, \tilde{e}x- + mancip\tilde{a}re, \tilde{e} to sell, bansfer (< manceps, mancip-, purchaser; see man-2 in App.).] -e·man/ci•pa/tion n. -e·man/ci•pa/tive, e·man/ci•pa·
to'ry (-pa-tôr'ē, -tōr'ē) adj. -e·man/ci•pa/tor n.
e·mar'gi•nate (I-mār'ja-nīt, -nāt') adj. Botany Having a shal-

www.notch at the tip. [Lat. ēmarginātus, p. part. of ēmargināre, to uke the edge away: ê-, ex-, ex- + margō, margin-, margin; see merg-in App.]—e•mar'gi•na'tion (-nā'shən) n.

*mas*cu*late (i-mas/kya-lat') tr.v. -lat*ed, -lat*ing, -lates 1. To castrate. 2. To deprive of strength or vigor; weaken. * adj. (a) Deprived of virility, strength, or vigor. [Lat. ēmasculāre, saxulāt-:: ē-, ex-, ex- + masculus, male, dim. of mās, male, man | —e-mas'cu-la'tion n. —e-mas'cu-la'tive, e-mas'cu-la'tive, la'tive, la

test (a corpse) with preservatives to prevent decay. 2. To protect from change or oblivion; preserve. 3. To impart fragrance to; perfume. [ME embaumen < OFr. embasmer: en-, in; see EN-1 + m. balm; see BALM.] —em·balm/er n. —em·balm/ment n. em·bank (čm-băngk/) tr.v. -banked, -bank•ing, -banks To e, support, or protect with an embankment.

em·bank·ment (ĕm-băngk/mənt) n. 1. The act of embanking. 2. A mound of earth or stone built to hold back water or support

em·bar·ca·de·ro (ĕm-bär'kə-dâr'ō) n., pl. -ros California A pier or landing place, esp. on a river or inland waterway. [Sp. < embarcar, nbark < OSpan. < Med.Lat. imbarcāre. See EMBARK.]

em·bar·go (em-bar/go) n., pl. -goes 1. A government order prohibiting the movement of merchant ships into or out of its orts. 2. A prohibition by a government on certain or all trade eth a foreign nation. 3. A prohibition; a ban. 💠 tr.v. -goed, going, -goes To impose an embargo on. [Sp. < embargar, to VLat. *imbarricare, to barricade : Lat. in-, in; see EN-1 * Vlat. *barricare, to barricade (< *barrīca, barrel, barrier barra, bar, barrier).

em·bark (em-bark) v. -barked, -bark•ing, -barks -tr. 1. To case to board a vessel or aircraft. 2. To enlist (a person or persons) or invest (capital) in an enterprise. —intr. 1. To go ard a vessel or aircraft. 2. To set out on a venture; commence. [Ft. embarquer < Late OFr., prob. < Med.Lat. imbarcare: Lat. in-, a + barca, boat.] —em'bar•ka/tion, em•bark/ment n.

em·bar·rass (em-bar/os) tr.v. -rassed, -rass·ing, -rass·es 1. To cause to feel self-conscious or ill at ease; disconcert. 2. To involve or hamper with financial difficulties. 3. To hinder with obstades or difficulties; impede. 4. To complicate. [Fr. embarrasser, to mcumber, hamper < Sp. embarazar < Ital. imbarazzare < imbarazzo, obstacle, obstruction < imbarrare, to block, bar: in-, m(<Lat.; see EN-1) + barra, bar (< VLat. *barra).] —em•bar/ra-

ssed·ly adv. —em·bar/rass·ing·ly adv. em·bar·rass·ment (em-bar/as-mant) n. 1. The act or an instance of embarrassing. 2. The state of being embarrassed. 3. A surce of embarrassment. 4. An overabundance. em·bas·sage (ĕm/bə-sīj) n. Archaic An embassy. [ME ambas-

e, office or function of an ambassador, poss. var. of ambassade OFr. ambassade, ambaxade, ult. < Med.Lat. ambactiāta bactia. See AMBASSADOR.]

em·bas·sy (čm/ba-sē) n., pl. -sies 1. A building containing the affices of an ambassador and staff. 2. The position, function, or segnment of an ambassador. 3. A mission to a foreign government headed by an ambassador. 4. A staff of diplomatic typesentatives headed by an ambassador. [Variant of ambassy, slike or function of an ambassador < obsolete Fr. ambassée « Med.Lat. ambactiāta. See EMBASSAGE.]

sm·bat·tle (čm-băt/l) tr.v. -tled, -tling, -tles 1. To prepare for battle; array. 2. To furnish with battlements for defense. [ME emsmallen < OFr. embataillier: en-, in; see EN-1 + bataillier, to batbe (< bataille, battle; see BATTLE).

em·bat·tled (em-bat/ld) adj. 1. Prepared or fortified for battle igaged in battle. 2. Beset, as with criticism.

•m•bat•tle•ment (ĕm-băt/l-mənt, ĭm-) n. See battlement. em·bay (ēm-bā/) tr.v. -bayed, -bay•ing, -bays To put, shelter, detain in or as if in a bay.

em-bay-ment (em-ba/mont) n. 1. A bay or baylike shape. 2. The on of a bay.

*bed (em-bed') also im*bed (im-) v. -bed*ded, -bed*ding, beds—ir. 1. To fix firmly in a surrounding mass: embed a post in contrete. 2. To enclose snugly or firmly. 3. To cause to be an integral part of. 4. To assign (a journalist) to travel with a military unit during an armed conflict. —intr. To become embedded. \Leftrightarrow n. (ĕm/bĕd') One that is embedded, esp. a journalist assigned to an active military unit. -em·bed/ment n.

em·bel·lish (ĕm-bĕl/ĭsh) tr.v. -lished, -lish·ing, -lish·es 1. To make beautiful, as by ornamentation. 2. To add ornamental or fictitious details to (a story, for example). [ME embelishen < OFT: embellir, embelliss-: en-, causative pref.; see EN-1 + bel, beautiful (< Lat. bellus; see deu- in App.).]—em-bel/lish-er n. em-bel-lish-ment (ëm-bēl/rsh-mənt) n. 1. The act of embel-lishing or the state of being embellished. 2. Something that em-

bellishes. 3. Music A note that embellishes a melody

em•ber (ĕm/bər) n. 1. A small glowing piece of coal or wood, as in a dying fire. 2. embers The smoldering coal or ash of a dying fire. [ME embre < OE @merge.]

Ember Day *n*. A day for prayer and fasting in some Christian churches, observed on the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday after the first Sunday of Lent, after Whitsunday, after September 14, and after December 13. [ME ymber daye < OE ymbrendæg: ymbryne, recurrence, course of time (ymbe, around; see ambhi in

App. + ryne, a running) + dæg, day.]

em•bez•zle (ĕm-bĕz²əl) tr.v. -zled, -zling, -zles To take (money, for example) for one's own use in violation of a trust. [ME embe silen < AN enbesiler: OFr. en-, intensive pref.; see EN-! + OFr. besillier, to ravage.] —em•bez/zle•ment n. —em•bez/zler n.

em·bit·ter (em-bit/ər) tr.v. -tered, -ter·ing, -ters 1. To make bitter in flavor. 2. To arouse bitter feelings in: was embittered by years of unrewarded labor. —em·bit/ter·ment n.

em·blaze1 (ĕm-blaz1) tr.v. -blazed, -blaz•ing, -blaz•es 1. To

set on fire. 2. To cause to glow; light up. em•blaze² (ĕm-blāz*) tr.v. -blazed, -blaz•ing, -blaz•es Archaic 1. To emblazon. 2. To decorate lavishly.

em·bla·zon (ĕm-blā/zən) tr.v. -zoned, -zon·ing, -zons 1a. To adorn (a surface) richly with prominent markings. b. To inscribe (a prominent marking) on a surface: emblazon an X on a flag. 2. To make resplendent with brilliant colors. 3. To make illustrious; celebrate. —em·bla/zon·er n. —em·bla/zon·ment n.

em·bla·zon·ry (ĕm-blaz/ən-rē) n., pl. -ries 1. The act or art of

emblazoning. 2. Colorful or prominent decoration. emblem (emblom) n. 1. An object or representation that functions as a symbol. 2. A distinctive badge, design, or device. 3. An allegorical picture usu, inscribed with a verse or motto presenting a moral lesson. [ME, pictorial fable < Lat. emblēma, emblēmat-, raised ornament < Gk., embossed design < emballein, to insert, set in : en-, in; see $EN-^2 + ballein$, to throw; see g^wele - in App.]

em·blem·at·ic (ĕm'blə-măt'ĭk) or em·blem·at·i·cal (-ĭ-kəl) adj. Of, relating to, or serving as an emblem; symbolic. —em'-blem•at/i•cal•ly adv.

em·blem·a·tize (ĕm-blĕm/ə-tīz') also em·blem·ize (ĕm/bləmīz') tr.v. -tized, -tiz-ing, -tiz-es also -ized, -iz-ing, -iz-es To represent with or as if with an emblem; symbolize.

em·ble·ments (ĕm/blə-mənts) pl.n. The crops or products of the land legally belonging to a tenant. [< ME emblaiment < OFr. emblaement < emblaer, to sow with grain < Med.Lat. imbladare: Lat. in-, in; see EN-1 + Med.Lat. bladum, bladium, grain (of Gmc.

orig.; see bhel- in App.).]
em·bod·y (ĕm-bŏd/e) tr.v. -bod·ied, -bod·y•ing, -bod·ies 1.
To give a bodily form to; incarnate. 2. To represent in bodily or material form. 3. To make part of a system or whole; incorporate. -em•bod/i•ment n.

em·bold·en (ĕm-böl/dən) tr.v. -ened, -en·ing, -ens To foster boldness or courage in; encourage. em·bo·lec·to·my (ĕm'bə-lĕk'tə-mē) n., pl. -mies Surgical re-

moval of an embolus. [EMBOL(US) + -ECTOMY.]

em·bol·ic (ĕm-bŏl/ik) adj. 1. Pathology Of, relating to, or caused by an embolus or an embolism. 2. Embryology Of or relating to

em·bo·lism (ĕm/bə-lĭz/əm) n. 1. Obstruction or occlusion of a blood vessel by an embolus. 2. An embolus. [ME embolisme, insertion < LLat. embolismus < Gk. embolismos < emballein, to insert. See EMBLEM.] —em'bo•lis/mic adj.

em-bo-los) n., pl. -li (-lit') A mass, such as a blood clot, that travels through the bloodstream and lodges so as to obstruct or occlude a blood vessel. [Lat., piston of a pump < Gk.

struct or occlude a blood vessel. [Lat., piston of a pump < GK. embolos, stopper, plug < emballein, to insert. See EMBLEM.]

em·bo·ly (ëm/bo-le) n., pl. lies The formation of a gastrula from a blastula by invagination. [Gk. embolē, insertion < emballein, to insert. See EMBLEM.]

em·bon·point (än'bôn-pwăn') n. The condition of being plump; stoutness. [Fr. < en bon point, in good condition: en, in (< Lat. in; see IN-2) + bon, good (< OFr.; see BOON²) + point, condition; see POINT.]

em·bos·om (ĕm-booz'əm, -boo'zəm) tr.v. -omed, -om•ing, -oms 1. To enclose protectively; envelop. 2. Archaic To clasp to or hold in the bosom.

em·boss (ëm-bôs', -bòs') tr.v. -bossed, -boss·ing, -boss·es 1.

To mold or carve in relief: emboss a design on a coin. 2. To decorate with or as if with a raised design: emboss leather. 3. To adorn; decorate. [ME embosen < OFr. embocer : en-, in; see EN-1 + boce, knob.] —em·boss/er n.

em·boss·ment (ĕm-bôs/mənt, -bŏs/-) n. 1. The act or process

457

emalangeni

embossment



emarginate emarginate leaf



emblem universal recycling emblem

oi boy pay ou out oo took father oo boot pet ŭ cut ûr urge

pit th thin th this pie pier hw which ŏ pot zh vision about, ō toe ə ô paw

Stress marks: / (primary); (secondary), as in lexicon (lěk'sĭ-kŏn')