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forkball to formée

principal tributary of a river. —v.t. 7. to pierce, raise, pitch, dig, etc., with a fork. 8. to make into the form of a fork. 9. to maneuver so as to place (two opposing chess pieces) under simultaneous attack by the same piece. —v.i. 10. to divide into branches, as a road. 11. to turn as indicated at a fork in a road, path, etc. 12. Informal. fork over, out, or up, to deliver; pay; hand over. [bef. 1000; ME forke, OE forca < L furca fork, gallows, yoke] —fork/less, adj. —fork/like/, adj.

fork-ball (fôrk/bôl'), n. a baseball pitch thrown with the ball inserted between the index and middle fingers, causing it to dip sharply near home plate. [1920-25, Amer.]

forked (fôrkt, fôr'kid), adj. 1. having a fork or forklike branches. 2. zigzag, as lightning. —Idiom. 3. to speak with or have a forked tongue, to speak deceitfully; attempt to deceive. [1250-1300] —fork-ed-ly (fôr'kid lē), adv. —fork/ed-ness, n.

fork-ful (fôrkt/fûl), n., pl. -fuls. the amount a fork can hold. [1635-45] —Usage. See -FUL.

fork-lift (fôrkt/lift'), n. Also called **fork/lift truck**/, **fork/ truck**/. a small vehicle with two power-operated prongs at the front that can be slid under heavy loads in order to lift and stack them. [1940-45]



forklift

fork-ten/der, adj. (of food, esp. meat) cooked so that it can be cut or pierced easily with a fork.

fork-y (fôr'kē), adj. fork-i-er, fork-i-est. forked. [1500-10] —fork/i-ness, n.

For-li (fôr lē'), n. a city in N Italy, SE of Bologna. 110,334.

for-lorn (fôr lôrn'), adj. 1. miserable, as in condition or appearance; dreary; wretched. 2. lonely and sad; forsaken; desolate. 3. expressive of hopelessness; despairing: *forlorn glances*. 4. bereft; destitute: *forlorn of comfort*. [bef. 1150; ME forlorn to forfeit, desert, OE forlōsan. See FOR-, LOSE] —for-lorn/ly, adv. —for-lorn/ness, n.

forlorn/ hope, n. 1. a perilous or desperate enterprise. 2. a vain hope. 3. Obs. a group of soldiers assigned to perform some unusually dangerous service. [1530-40]

form (fôrm), n. 1. external appearance of a clearly defined area, as distinguished from color or material; configuration: *a triangular form*. 2. the shape of a thing or person. 3. a body, esp. that of a human being. 4. a dummy having the same measurements as a human body, used for fitting or displaying clothing. 5. something that gives or determines shape; a mold. 6. a particular condition, character, or mode in which something appears: *water in the form of ice*. 7. the manner or style of arranging and coordinating parts for a pleasing or effective result, as in literary or musical composition. 8. the organization, placement, or relationship of basic elements, as lines and colors in a painting or volumes and voids in a sculpture, so as to produce a coherent image; the formal structure of a work of art. 9. a particular kind, type, species, or variety, esp. of a zoological group. 10. the combination of all the like faces possible on a crystal of given symmetry. 11. due or proper shape; orderly arrangement of parts; good order. 12. Philos. a. the structure, organization, or essential character of something, as opposed to its matter. b. (cap.) Platonism. ἰδέα (def. 8c). c. Aristotelianism. that which places a thing in its particular species or kind. 13. a set, prescribed, or customary order or method of doing something. 14. a set order of words, as for use in religious ritual or in a legal document; formula. 15. a document with blank spaces to be filled in with particulars: *a tax form*. 16. a conventional method of procedure or behavior: *society's forms*. 17. procedure according to a set order or method. 18. conformity to the usages of society; formality; ceremony. 19. manner or method of performing something; technique: *The violinist displayed excellent form*. 20. physical condition or fitness, as for performing: *a tennis player in peak form*. 21. a. LINGUISTIC FORM. b. a particular shape of a word that occurs in more than one shape: *In 'm, 'm is a form of am*. c. a word with a particular inflectional ending or other modification: *Goes is a form of go*. d. the external shape or pattern of a word or other construction, as distinguished from its meaning, function, etc. 22. temporary boarding or sheeting of plywood or metal for giving a desired shape to poured concrete, rammed earth, etc. 23. a grade or class of pupils in a British secondary school or in certain U.S. private schools. 24. a bench or long seat. 25. an assemblage of printing types, leads, etc., secured in a chase to print from. —v.t. 26. to construct or frame. 27. to make or produce. 28. to serve to make up; compose; constitute: *Three citizens form the review board*. 29. to place in order; arrange; organize. 30. to frame (ideas, opinions, etc.) in the mind. 31. to contract or develop (habits, friendships, etc.). 32. to give form or shape to; shape; fashion. 33. to give a particular form or shape to: *Form the dough into squares*. 34. to mold or develop by discipline or instructions. 35. to produce (a word or class of words) by adding an

affix, combining elements, or changing the shape of the form: *the plural by adding -s*. —v.i. 36. to take or assume form. 37. to be formed or produced: *Ice began to form on the window*. 38. to be in a particular form or arrangement: *The ice formed in patches across the window*. [1175-1225; ME forme < OF < L forma form, mold. ML: seat] —form/a-ble, adj. —form/a-bly, adv.

-form, a combining form meaning "having the form of": *crustiform* [*< L -fôrmis*]

form-al (fôr'mæl), adj. 1. being in accordance with the usual conventions, customs, etc.; conventional: *to pay one's formal respects*. 2. marked by form or ceremony: *a formal occasion*. 3. designed for use at elaborate ceremonial or social events: *The invitation invited formal attire*. 4. requiring dress suitable for elaborate events: *a formal dance*. 5. observant of conventional requirements of behavior, procedure, etc., as persons; punctilious. 6. excessively formal; prim; decorous. 7. being a matter of form only; pertaining to *formal courtesy*. 8. made or done in accordance with procedure to ensure validity: *a formal authorization*. 9. of, pertaining to, or measuring the organization or composition of the constituent elements of a work of art perceived separately from its subject matter: *the formal structure of a poem*. 10. acquired in school; academic. 11. symmetrical or highly organized: *a formal garden*. 12. of or pertaining to a language use typical of impersonal and official situations, characterized by adherence to traditional standards of correctness, often conventional vocabulary and syntax, and the avoidance of contractions and colloquial expressions. 13. pertaining to the form, shape, or mode of something, esp. as distinguished from the substance: *formal writing*, being such merely in appearance or name; nominal: *a formal business state*. 15. Math. a. (of a proof) in strict logical form with a justification for every step. b. (of a calculation) correct in form; made with strict justification for every step. —n. 16. a dance or ball that requires formal attire. 17. an evening gown. —adv. 18. in formal style. [1350-1400; ME < L] —for/mal-ly, adv. —for/mal-ness, n.

form-al-de-hyde (fôr mal'dē hīd', fôr-), n. a toxic gas, CH₂O, chiefly in aqueous solution as a disinfectant and preservative. [1775; < G Formaldehyd; see FORMIC ACID, ALDEHYDE]

form-al-in (fôr'mæ lin), n. a clear, colorless, aqueous solution of formaldehyde. [1893; FORMAL(DEHYDE) + -IN]

form-al-ism (fôr'mæ liz'əm), n. strict observance of prescribed traditional forms, as in music, poetry, and art. [1830-40] —form-al-ist, n., adj. —for/mal-is'tic, adj. —for/mal-is'ti-cal-ly, adv.

form-al-i-ty (fôr mal'i tē), n., pl. -ties. 1. condition or quality of being formal; accordance with required or traditional rules, procedures, etc.; conventionality. 2. rigorously methodical character. 3. strict adherence to established rules and procedures; rigidity. 4. observance of form or ceremony. 5. marked or excessive ceremoniousness. 6. an established order or method of proceeding. 7. a formal act or observance; ritual. 8. something done merely or mainly for form's sake; requirement of custom or etiquette. [1525-35; < L]

form-al-ize (fôr'mæ līz'), v.t., -ized, -iz-ing. 1. to make formal for the sake of official acceptance. 2. to give a definite form or shape to. [1590-1600] —for/mal-iz-a'tion, n. —for/mal-iz'er, n.

form-al-wear (fôr'mal wâr'), n. clothing designed for or customary worn on formal occasions, as tuxedos and evening gowns. [1945-]

form-ant (fôr'mənt), n. one of the regions of concentration of energy, prominent on a sound spectrogram, that collectively constitute the frequency spectrum of a speech sound. [1900-05; < G (1890)]

form-at (fôr'mat), n., v., -mat-ted, -mat-ting. —n. 1. the shape or size of a book as determined by the number of times the page sheet has been folded to form the leaves. Compare DUODECIMO (def. 2), OCTAVO, QUARTO. 2. the general physical appearance of a book, magazine, or newspaper. 3. the organization, plan, style, type of something. 4. the arrangement of data for computer input/output, as the number of fields in a database record or the manner of a report. 5. the programming featured by a radio or television program: *a talk-show format*. —v.t. 6. to plan or provide a format for. 7. to set the format of (computer data input or output). b. to prepare a computer disk for writing and reading. —v.i. 8. to devise a format. [1830-40; < F < G < L (liber) fôrmātus] —for/mat-ter, n.

form-ate (fôr'mät), n. a salt or ester of formic acid. [1800-10]

form-a-tion (fôr mäs'hən), n. 1. the act or process of forming or state of being formed. 2. the manner in which a thing is formed: *formal structure or arrangement*. 3. a. a particular arrangement or disposition of persons, as of troops or players on a team. b. any regular assembling of the soldiers of a unit. 4. a. a body of rocks classed as a stratigraphic unit for geologic mapping. Compare MEMBER (def. 1) in the process of depositing rock or mineral of a particular composition or origin. [1375-1425; late ME < L] —for/mat'ion-al, adj.

form-a-tive (fôr'ma tiv), adj. 1. giving form or shape; forming. 2. pertaining to formation or development: *a child's formative years*. 3. a. capable of developing new cells or tissue by cell division and differentiation: *formative tissue*. b. concerned with the formation of an embryo, organ, or the like. 4. pertaining to or used in the formation of words. —n. 5. a derivational affix, esp. one that determines the part of speech of the derived word, as -ness in *loudness*, *harmful*, etc. 6. (in a generative grammar) any minimal element of syntactic word or affix, that can be used in forming larger constructions. [1480-90; < MF formatif] —for/mat'ive-ly, adv.

form/ class, n. a class of words or other forms in a language that share one or more grammatical features in common, as all plural nouns.

for-mée (fôr mäs'), adj. (of a heraldic cross) having the arms pointing outward from the center. [1600-10; < F, fem. ptp. of former]