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development. **2.a.** Having or showing qual-
 character, such as courage, generosity, or hon-
 b. Proceeding from or indicative of such a
 magnanimity: "What poor an instrument/May
 Shakespeare). **3.** Grand and stately in appear-
 mighty Spanish chestnut, bare now of leaves,
 ble tree" (Richard Jeffries). **4. Chemistry.** In-
noble n. **1.** A member of the nobility. **2.** A
 used in England, worth half of a mark. [Mid-
 Old French, from Latin *nobilis*. See **gnō-** in
ble-ness n. — **no/bly adv.**

ty of the elements in Group O of the periodic
 lum, neon, argon, krypton, xenon, and radon,
 ic and with limited exceptions chemically in-
 rt gas.

nob(-mən) n. A man of noble rank.
 A metal or an alloy, such as gold, that is highly
 on and corrosion.

parasitic fungus (*Botrytis cinerea*) that attacks
 ses an increase in their sugar content. Certain
 French Sauternes and the Hungarian Tokay,
 such grapes.

no(-) n. **1.** Noble birth or condition. **2.** The
 ility, especially the French nobility. [Middle
 French, from *noble*, noble, from Latin *nobilis*.
 French, from *noble*, noble, from Latin *nobilis*.

no(-bləzh') n. Benevolent, honorable be-
 be the responsibility of persons of high birth
 nobility obligates : *noblesse*, nobility + *oblige*,
 present tense of *obliger*, to obligate.]
 (nō'bal-wōm'ən) n. A woman of noble

no(-) n. **1.** A knob, knot, protuberance, or swelling. **2.a.**
 Botany. The point on a stem where a leaf is attached or has been
 attached; a joint. **b.** See **knot**¹ (sense 7). **3. Physics.** A point or
 region of virtually zero amplitude in a periodic system. **4. Math-**
ematics. The point at which a continuous curve crosses itself. **5.**
Computer Science. A terminal in a computer network. **6. Astron-**
omy. **a.** Either of two diametrically opposite points at which the
 orbit of a planet intersects the ecliptic. **b.** Either of two points at
 which the orbit of a satellite intersects the orbital plane of a plan-
 et. [Middle English, lump in the flesh, from Latin *nodus*, knot.
 See **nod-** in Appendix.]

node of Ran-vier (rān'vyā, rān-vyā', rān-) n., pl. **nodes of**
Ranvier. A constriction in the myelin sheath, occurring at vary-
 ing intervals along the length of a nerve fiber. [After Louis An-
 toine Ranvier (1835–1922), French histologist.]

no(-) n. Plural of **nodus**.

no(-) adj. Characterized by or having many nodes
 or protuberances, jointed or knobby at intervals. — **no(-)dos'ity**
 (-dōs'ī-tē) n.

nod-ule (nōj'ool) n. **1.** A small knotlike protuberance. **2.**
Anatomy. A small mass of tissue or aggregation of cells. **3. Bot-**
any. A small knoblike outgrowth, as those found on the roots of
 many leguminous plants. **4. Mineralogy.** A small rounded lump
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 rounding rock or sediment. [Middle English, from Latin *nodus*,
 diminutive of *nodus*, knot. See **nod-** in Appendix.] — **nod'u-lar**
 (nōj'ə-lər), **nod'u-lose'** (-lōs'), **nod'u-lous** (-lās) adj.

no(-) n., pl. **-di** (-dī). A difficult situation or prob-
 lem; a complication. [Latin *nodus*, knot. See **nod-** in Appendix.]
NOED also **N.O.E.D.** *abbr.* New Oxford English Dictionary.

No(-) n. also **No(-)el** (nō-ēl') n. **1.** Christmas. **2. no(-)el** also **noel.**
 A Christmas carol. [Middle English *noel*, from Old French, vari-
 ant of *nael*, from Latin *nātālis* (*diēs*), (day) of birth, from *nātus*,
 past participle of *nāscī*, to be born. See **gene-** in Appendix.]

No(-)el-Ba(-)ker (nō'el-bā'kər), **Philip John.** 1889–1982. Brit-
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 Nations (1919) and the United Nations Charter (1945). He won the
 1959 Nobel Peace Prize.

no(-) n. Plural of **no**¹.

no(-)sis (nō-ē'sis) n. **Psychology.** The cognitive process; cog-
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 from *nous*, mind.]

no(-)etic (nō-ēt'ik) adj. Of, relating to, originating in, or ap-
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 standing. See **NOESIS**.]

no(-)fault (nō'fōlt') adj. **1.** Of, indicating, or being a system of
 motor vehicle insurance in which accident victims are compensat-
 ed by their insurance companies without assignment of blame.
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no(-)frills (nō'frīlz') adj. **Informal.** Marked by the absence of
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nog¹ (nōg) n. **1.** A wooden block built into a masonry wall to
 hold nails that support joinery structures. **2.** A wooden peg or
 pin. [Origin unknown.]

nog² (nōg) n. Eggnog.

No(-)gal(-)es (nō-gāl'is, -gā'lis). A city of southern Arizona
 south of Tucson on the Mexican border adjacent to **Nogales**,
 Mexico. Both cities are ports of entry and tourist centers. Nogales,
 Arizona, has a population of 15,683; Nogales, Mexico, has 14,254
 inhabitants.

nod (nōd) v. **nod(-)ded, nod(-)ding, nods.** — *intr.* **1.** To lower
 and raise the head quickly, as in agreement or acknowledgment.
2. To let the head fall forward when sleepy; doze momentarily:
nodded off on the train. **3.** To be careless or momentarily inat-
 tentive as if sleepy; lapse: *Even Homer nods*. **4.** To sway, move
 up and down, or droop, as flowers in the wind. — *tr.* **1.** To lower
 and raise (the head) quickly in agreement or acknowledgment. **2.**
 To express by lowering and raising the head: *He nodded his agree-*
ment. **3.** To summon, guide, or send by nodding the head: *The*
chairperson nodded us into the room. — **nod n.** **1.** A forward or
 up-and-down movement of the head, usually expressive of drowsi-
 ness or agreement: *gave a nod of affirmation*. **2.** An indication of
 approval or assent: *The contestant got the nod from the judges*.
 [Middle English *nodden*; perhaps akin to Middle High German
notten.] — **nod(-)der n.**

nod(-)al (nōd'əl) adj. Of, relating to, resembling, being, or situ-
 ated near or at a node. — **nod(-)al(-)ly adv.**

nod(-)ding pogonia (nōd'ing) n. A North American orchid
 (*Triphora trianthophora*) having nodding flower buds and ascend-
 ing, pink or white flowers.

nod(-)dle (nōd'el) n. The head. [Middle English *noddel*, back of
 the head, perhaps from Latin *nodus*, lump, knob. See **NODULE**.]

nod(-)dy (nōd'ē) n., pl. **-dies**. **1.** A dunce or fool; a simpleton.
2. Any of several terms of the genera *Anous* and *Micranous*, found
 in tropical waters and having a dark brown or black color with a
 white or gray head. [Perhaps from obsolete *noddy*, foolish, possi-
 bly from **NOD**.]

node (nōd) n. **1.** A knob, knot, protuberance, or swelling. **2.a.**
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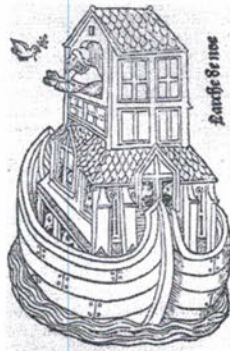
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Noah
 15th-century
 French rendering
 of Noah in his ark,
 from *La Mer des Histoires*



Alfred Nobel

ā pat	oi boy
ā pay	ou out
ār care	ōō took
ā father	ōō boot
ē pet	ū cut
ē be	ūr urge
ī pit	th thin
ī pie	th this
īr pier	hw which
ō pot	zh vision
ō toe	ə about, item



At an archaeological dig

[Spanish, from Latin *sexta* (*hōra*), sixth (hour), midday, feminine of *sextus*, sixth. See *SEXT*.]

sieve (siv) *n.* A utensil of wire mesh or closely perforated metal, used for straining, sifting, ricing, or puréeing. — *sieve* *v.* **sieved**, **siev-ing**, **sieves**. — *tr.* To pass through a sieve. — *intr.* To use a sieve; sift. [Middle English *sive*, from Old English *sife*.]

sieve plate *n.* *Botany.* The perforated end wall of a sieve tube cell.

sieve tube *n.* *Botany.* A series of cells joined end to end, forming a tube through which nutrients are conducted in flowering plants and brown algae.

sift (sift) *v.* **sift-ed**, **sift-ing**, **sifts**. — *tr.* 1. To put (flour, for example) through a sieve or other straining device in order to separate the fine from the coarse particles. 2. To distinguish as if separating with a sieve: *sifted the candidates for the job*. 3. To apply by scattering with or as if with a sieve: *sift sugar on a dessert*. 4. To examine and sort carefully: *sift the evidence*. — *intr.* 1. To make use of a sieve. 2. To pass through or as if through a sieve: *a meal that sifts easily*. 3. To make a careful examination: *sifted through back issues of the magazine*. [Middle English *siften*, from Old English *siftan*.] — **sift'er** *n.*

sig. *abbr.* 1. Signal. 2. Signature. 3. Often **Sig.** Signor; signore.

Sig. *abbr.* 1. *Latin.* Signa (mark or label it). 2. *Medicine.* Signature. 3. *Latin.* Signetur (let it be marked or labeled).

sigh (sī) *v.* **sighed**, **sigh-ing**, **sighs**. — *intr.* 1. *a.* To exhale audibly in a long, deep breath, as in weariness or relief. *b.* To emit a similar sound: *willows sighing in the wind*. 2. To feel longing or grief; yearn: *sighing for their lost youth*. — *tr.* 1. To express with or as if with an audible exhalation. 2. *Archaic.* To lament. — **sigh** *n.* The act or sound of sighing. [Middle English *sighen*, probably back-formation from *sighte*, past tense of *siken*, to sigh, from Old English *sican*.] — **sigh'er** *n.*

♦ **sight** (sīt) *n.* 1. The ability to see. 2. The act or fact of seeing: *hoping for a sight of land; caught sight of a rare bird*. 3. Field of vision. 4. The foreseeable future; prospect: *no solution in sight*. 5. Something seen; a view. 6. Something worth seeing; a spectacle: *the sights of London*. 7. *Informal.* Something unsightly: *Your hair is a sight*. 8. *a.* A device used to assist aim by guiding the eye, as on a firearm or surveying instrument. *b.* An aim or observation taken with such a device. 9. An opportunity to observe or inspect. 10. *Upper Southern U.S.* A large number or quantity: *A sight of people were there*. — **sight** *v.* **sight-ed**, **sight-ing**, **sights**. — *tr.* 1. To perceive with the eyes; get sight of: *sighted land after 40 days at sea*. 2. To observe through a sight or an optical instrument: *sight a target*. 3. To adjust the sights of (a rifle, for example). 4. To take aim with (a firearm). — *intr.* 1. To direct one's gaze; look carefully. 2. To take aim: *sighted along the barrel of the gun*. — **idioms.** **on sight.** Immediately upon being seen: *threatened to shoot looters on sight*. **out of sight.** *Slang.* Remarkable; incredible: *The graduation party was out of sight*. **sight for sore eyes.** *Informal.* One whom it is a relief or joy to see. **sight unseen.** Without seeing the object in question: *bought the horse sight unseen*. [Middle English, from Old English *sīth*, *gesīht*, something seen. See *sek*² in Appendix.]

sight draft *n.* *Abbr.* **SD.** A draft or bill that is payable on demand or upon presentation. Also called *demand draft*.

sight-ed (sīt'ēd) *adj.* 1. Having the ability to see. 2. Having eyesight of a specified kind. Often used in combination: *keen-sighted*. — **sight'ed-ness** *n.*

sight gag *n.* A comic bit or effect that depends on sight rather than words.

sight-ing (sīt'ing) *n.* The act of catching sight of something, especially something unusual or searched for: *a sighting of a whale in the harbor; a reported sighting of a UFO*.

sight-less (sīt'lis) *adj.* 1. Unable to see with the eyes; blind. 2. Invisible. — **sight'less-ly** *adv.* — **sight'less-ness** *n.*

sight-line also **sight line** (sīt'lin') *n.* A line of sight, especially one between a spectator and the spectacle in a theater or stadium.

sight-ly (sīt'lē) *adj.* **-li-er**, **-li-est**. 1. Pleasing to see; visually appealing. 2. Affording a fine view; scenic. — **sight'li-ness** *n.*

sight-read (sīt'rēd') *v.* **-read** (-rēd'), **-read-ing**, **-reads**. — *tr.* To read or perform (music, for example) without preparation or prior acquaintance. — *intr.* To read or perform something on sight without preparation or prior acquaintance. — **sight'-read'er** *n.*

sight rhyme *n.* See *eye rhyme*.

sight-see (sīt'sē') *intr.v.* **-saw** (-sō'), **-seen** (-sēn'), **-see-ing**, **-sees**. To tour sights of interest. — **sight'se'er** *n.*

sight-see-ing (sīt'sē'ing) *n.* The act or pastime of visiting sights of interest. — **sightseeing** *adj.* Used or engaged in sightseeing: *a sightseeing bus; a sightseeing tour*.

sig-il (sij'əl, sig'īl) *n.* 1. A seal; a signet. 2. A sign or an image considered magical. [Latin *sigillum*, diminutive of *signum*, sign. See *SIGN*.]

Sig-is-mund (sig'is-mənd). 1368–1437. Holy Roman emperor (1433–1437) and king of Hungary (1387–1437) and Bohemia

sigma factor *n.* A protein component of RNA polymerase that determines the specific site on DNA where transcription begins.

sigma hyperon *n.* Any of three unstable subatomic particles in the baryon family, having a mass of 2,328 to 2,343 times that of the electron and a positive, neutral, or negative electric charge, but a baryon number of 1. — **sigma hyperon** *pl.*

sig-moid (sig'moid') also **sig-moi-dal** (sig-moid'l) *adj.* Having the shape of the letter S. 2. Of or relating to the sigmoid flexure of the colon. [Greek *sigmoeidēs*: *sigma*, sigma; see *SEE* + *-oidēs*, *-oid*.]

sigmoid flexure *n.* An S-shaped section of the colon between the descending section and the rectum. Also called *sigmoid colon*.

sig-moid-o-scope (sig-moi'də-skōp') *n.* A tubular instrument for visual examination of the sigmoid flexure. — **sig-moid'o-scop'ic** (-skōp'ik) *adj.* — **sig'moid-os'co-py** (-mōi-dōs'kə-pē) *n.*

sign (sīn) *n.* 1. Something that suggests the presence or absence of a fact, condition, or quality. 2. *a.* An act or a gesture used to convey an idea, a desire, information, or a command: *the go-ahead sign*. *b.* Sign language. 3. *a.* A displayed symbol bearing lettering or symbols, used to identify or advertise a place of business: *a motel with a flashing neon sign outside*. *b.* A posted notice bearing a designation, direction, or command: *a sign above a door; a traffic sign*. 4. A conventional figure or device that stands for a word, a phrase, or an operation: *a sign as in mathematics or in musical notation*. 5. *pl.* **signs.** An indicator, such as a dropping or footprint, of the trail of an animal: *looking for deer signs*. 6. A trace or vestige: *no sign of life*. 7. A portentous incident or event; a presage: *took the eclipse as a sign from God*. 8. A body manifestation that serves to indicate the presence of malfunction or disease. 9. One of the 12 divisions of the zodiac, each named for a constellation and represented by a symbol. — **sign** *v.* **signed**, **sign-ing**, **signs**. — *tr.* 1. To add one's signature to. 2. To write (one's signature). 3. To approve or ratify (a document) by affixing a signature, seal, or other mark: *sign a bill into law*. 4. To hire or engage by obtaining a signature on a contract: *signed a rookie pitcher for next season; signed actors for a tour*. 5. To relinquish or transfer title to by signing: *signed away all her claims to the estate*. 6. To provide with signs or signals: *sign a new highway*. 7. To communicate with a sign by sign language: *signed his approval; sign instructions to hearing-impaired teammate*. 8. To consecrate with the sign of the cross. — *intr.* 1. To make a sign or signs; signal. 2. To use a language. 3. To write one's signature. — **phrasal verbs.** **sign in.** To record the arrival of (another or oneself) by signing a register. **sign off.** 1. To announce the end of a communication: *sign off*. 2. To stop transmission after identifying the broadcasting station. 3. *Informal.* To express approval formally or conclusively: *got the Congress to sign off on the tax proposal*. **sign on.** *Informal.* To enlist oneself, especially as an employee: *sign on politicians often sign on with top-dollar law firms* (New York Times). 2. To start transmission with an identification of the broadcasting station. **sign out.** To record the departure of (another or oneself) by signing a register. **sign up.** To agree to participate or recipient by signing one's name; enlist: *signed up for military service; signing up for a pottery course*. [Middle English *signe*, from Old French, from Latin *signum*. See *sek*² in Appendix.] — **sign'er** *n.*

SYNONYMS: *sign, badge, mark, token, symptom, note.* The nouns are compared as they denote an outward indication of existence or presence of something not immediately evident. *Sign* is the most general: *A high forehead is thought to be a sign of intelligence*. "The exile of Gaveston was the sign of the dawn of triumph" (John R. Green). "The V sign is the symbol of the conquerable will of the occupied territories" (Winston S. Churchill). *Badge* usually refers to something that is worn as a sign of membership, is an emblem of achievement, or is a characteristic sign: *The sheriff's badge was shaped like a star*. "Sweet mercy is nobility's true badge" (Shakespeare). *Mark* refers to a visible trace or impression (a laundry mark) or an indication of a distinctive trait or characteristic: *Intolerance is the mark of a bigot*. The term can also denote a lasting effect, as of experience: *Poverty had left its mark*. *Token* usually refers to evidence or proof of something intangible: *sent flowers as a token of her affection*. *Symptom* suggests outward evidence of a process or condition, especially an adverse condition: *dying of a hundred good symptoms* (Alexander Pope); *the gale having rather increased than shown any symptoms of abating* (Frederick Marryat). *Note* applies to the sign of a particular quality or feature: *eternal note of sadness* (Matthew Arnold). See also *Synonymy gesture*.

Si-gnac (sēn-yāk'), **Paul.** 1863–1935. French neoclassical painter. He painted mainly landscapes and marine views, such as *Port of St. Tropez* (1916).

sign-age (sī'nij) *n.* 1. Signs considered as a group. 2. The design or use of signs and symbols.

