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Webster's  
Collegiate  
Dictionary  
TENTH EDITION



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Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data  
Main entry under title:

Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary. — 10th ed.

p. cm.

Includes index.

ISBN 0-87779-708-0 (unindexed : alk. paper). — ISBN 0-87779-709-9  
(indexed : alk. paper). — ISBN 0-87779-710-2 (deluxe indexed : alk. paper).  
— ISBN 0-87779-707-2 (laminated cover, unindexed).

1. English language—Dictionaries. I. Merriam-Webster, Inc.

PE1628.M36 1998

423—dc21

97-41846

CIP

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Made in the United States of America

2930313233RT:WC01

Fleming, German (conventionally thought of as ruddy-complexioned) (1565) : any of several large aquatic birds (family Phoenicopteridae) with long legs and neck, webbed feet, a broad lamellate bill resembling that of a duck but abruptly bent downward, and usu. rosy-white plumage with scarlet wing coverts and black wing quills.

**flam-ma-bil-i-ty** \flā-mə-'bi-lə-tē\ *n* (1646) : ability to support combustion; *esp.* : a high capacity for combustion

**flam-ma-ble** \flā-mə-bəl\ *adj* [L *flammare* to flame, set on fire, fr. *flamma*] (1813) : capable of being easily ignited and of burning quickly — **flammable** *n*

**flan** \flān, 'flān\ *n* [F, fr. OF *flaon*, fr. LL *fladon*, *flado* flat cake, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *flado* flat cake] (1846) **1 a** : an open pie containing any of various sweet or savory fillings **b** : custard baked with a caramel glaze **2** : the metal disk of a coin, token, or medal as distinguished from the design and lettering stamped on it

**fla-neur** \flā-'nɔr\ *n* [F *flâneur*] (1854) : an idle man-about-town

**flange** \flānj\ *n* [perh. alter. of *flanch* (a curving charge on a heraldic shield)] (ca. 1735) **1** : a rib or rim for strength, for guiding, or for attachment to another object (a ~ on a pipe) (a ~ on a wheel) **2** : a projecting edge of cloth used for decoration on clothing (a jacket with ~ shoulders)

**flange** *vt* **flanged**; **flang-ing** (ca. 1859) : to furnish with a flange

**flank** \flānk\ *n* [ME, fr. OF *flanc*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *hlanca* loin, flank — more at LANK] (bef. 12c) **1 a** : the fleshy part of the side between the ribs and the hip; *broadly* : the side of a quadruped **b** : a cut of meat from this part of an animal — see BEEF illustration **2 a** : SIDE **b** : the right or left of a formation **3** : the area along either side of a heraldic shield

**flank** *vt* (1596) **1** : to protect a flank of **2** : to attack or threaten the flank of (as a body of troops) **3 a** : to be situated at the side of; *esp.* : to be situated on both sides of (a road ~ed with linden trees) **b** : to place something on each side of

**flan-ken** \flāŋ-kən\ *n* [Yiddish, pl. of *flank*, lit., flank, ultim. fr. OF *flanc*] (1950) : beef flank cooked *esp.* by boiling

**flank-er** \flāŋ-kər\ *n* (1940) : a football player stationed wide of the formation slightly behind the line of scrimmage as a pass receiver — called also *flanker back*

**flank steak** *n* (1902) : a pear-shaped muscle of the beef flank; *also* : a steak cut from this muscle — see BEEF illustration

**flan-nel** \flā-nəl\ *n* [ME *flaunneol* woolen cloth or garment] (1503) **1 a** : a soft twilled wool or worsted fabric with a loose texture and a slightly napped surface **b** : a napped cotton fabric of soft yarns simulating the texture of wool flannel **c** : a stout cotton fabric usu. napped on one side **2 pl a** : flannel underwear **b** : outer garments of flannel; *esp.* : men's trousers **3 Brit** : WASHCLOTH **4 Brit** : flattering or evasive talk; *also* : NONSENSE, RUBBISH — **flannel** *adj* — **flan-nel-ly** \n-'nəl-ē\ *adj*

**flan-nel-ette** \flā-nəl-'et\ *n* (ca. 1882) : a lightweight cotton flannel

**flan-nel-mouthed** \flā-nəl-'maʊtht, -'maʊthd\ *adj* (ca. 1893) **1** : speaking indistinctly **2** : speaking in a tricky or ingratiating way

**flap** \flap\ *n* [ME *flappe*] (14c) **1** : a stroke with something broad : SLAP **2 obs** : something broad and flat used for striking **3** : something that is broad, limber, or flat and usu. thin and that hangs loose or projects freely; as **a** : a piece on a garment that hangs free **b** : a part of a book jacket that folds under the book's cover **c** : a piece of tissue partly severed from its place of origin for use in surgical grafting **d** : an extended part forming the closure (as of an envelope or carton) **4** : the motion of something broad and limber (as a sail or wing) **5** : a movable auxiliary airfoil usu. attached to an airplane wing's trailing edge to increase lift or drag — see AIRPLANE illustration **6 a** : a state of excitement or agitation : TIZZY, UPROAR **b** : something (as an incident or remark) that generates an uproar **7** : a consonant (as the sound *v* in *ladder* and *t* in *latter*) characterized by a single rapid contact of the tongue or lower lip against another point in the mouth — called also *tap*

**flap** *vb* **flapped**; **flap-ping** *vt* (14c) **1** : to beat with or as if with a flap **2** : to toss sharply : FLING **3** : to move or cause to move in flaps ~ *vi* **1** : to sway loosely usu. with a noise of striking and *esp.* when moved by wind **2 a** : to beat or pulsate wings or something suggesting wings **b** : to progress by flapping; **c** : to flutter ineffectively **3** : to talk foolishly and persistently

**flap-doo-dle** \flap-'dū-dəl\ *n* [origin unknown] (1878) : NONSENSE

**flap-jack** \-,jak\ *n* (ca. 1600) : PANCAKE

**flap-pa-ble** \flā-pə-bəl\ *adj* (1968) : easily upset

**flap-per** \flā-pər\ *n* (ca. 1570) **1 a** : one that flaps **b** : something used in flapping or striking **c** : FLIPPER **1** **2** : a young woman; *specif.* : a young woman of the period of World War I and the following decade who showed freedom from conventions (as in conduct)

**flap-py** \flā-pē\ *adj* (1905) : flapping or tending to flap

**flare** \flar, 'fler\ *vb* **flared**; **flar-ing** [origin unknown] *vi* (ca. 1700) **1 a** : to burn with an unsteady flame **b** : to stream in the wind **2 a** : to shine with a sudden light (a match ~s in the darkness) **b** (1) : to become suddenly excited or angry — usu. used with *up* (2) : to break out or intensify usu. suddenly or violently — often used with *up* (fighting *flared up* after a two-week lull) **c** : to express strong emotion (as anger) (*flaring out* at such abuses) **3** : to open or spread outward (the pants ~ at the bottom) ~ *vt* **1** : to display conspicuously (*flaring her scarf* to attract attention) **2** : to cause to flare (the breeze ~s the candle) **3** : to signal with a flare or by flaring **4** : to burn (a jet of waste gas) in the open air

**flare** *n* (1814) **1** : an unsteady glaring light **2 a** : a fire or blaze of light used *esp.* to signal, illuminate, or attract attention; *also* : a device or composition used to produce such a flare **b** : SOLAR FLARE; *also* : a sudden increase and decrease in the brightness of a star often amounting to a difference of several magnitudes **3** : a sudden outburst (as of excitement or anger) **4 a** : a spreading outward; *also* : a place or part that spreads **b** : an area of skin flush **5** : light resulting from reflection (as between lens surfaces) or an effect of this light (as a fogged or dense area in a photographic negative)

(~ nostrils) **2 a** : flaming or as if flaming brightly or unsteadily **b** : GAUDY (a ~ resort hotel) — **flar-ing-ly** \-in-'lē-ē\ *adv*

**flash** \flāsh\ *vb* [ME *flaschen*, of imit. origin] *vi* (13c) **1** : RUSH, DASH — used of flowing water **2** : to break forth in or like a sudden flame or flare **3 a** : to appear suddenly (an idea ~es into her mind) **b** : to move with great speed (the days ~ by) **4 a** : to break forth or out so as to make a sudden display (the sun ~ed from behind a cloud) **b** : to act or speak vehemently and suddenly *esp.* in anger **5 a** : to give off light suddenly or in transient bursts **b** : to glow or gleam *esp.* with animation or passion (her eyes ~ed with anger) **6** : to change suddenly or violently into vapor (hot water ~ing to steam under reduced pressure) **7** : to expose one's genitals usu. suddenly and briefly in public **8** : to have sudden insight — often used with *on* ~ *vi* **1 a** : to appear suddenly (light) **b** : to fill by a sudden inflow of water **2 a** : to cause the sudden appearance of (light) **b** : to cause to burst violently into flame (1) : to cause (light) to reflect (2) : to cause (as a mirror) to reflect light (3) : to cause (a lamp) to flash **d** : to convey by means of flashes of light **3 a** : to make known or cause to appear with great speed (a message on the screen) **b** : to display obtrusively and ostentatiously (always ~ing a roll of bills) **c** : to expose to view suddenly and ostentatiously (a badge) **4** : to cover with or form into a thin layer; as **a** : to protect against rain by covering with sheet metal or a substitute **b** : to coat (as glass) with a thin layer (as of metal or a differently colored glass) **5** : to subject (an exposed photographic negative or positive) to a supplementary uniform exposure to light before development in order to modify detail or tone

*syn* FLASH, GLEAM, GLINT, SPARKLE, GLITTER, GLISTEN, GLIMMER, SHIMMER mean to send forth light. FLASH implies a sudden and transient outburst of bright light (lightning *flashed*). GLEAM suggests a steady light seen through an obscuring medium or against a dark background (lights *gleamed* in the valley). GLINT implies a cold glancing light (glinting steel). SPARKLE suggests innumerable moving points of bright light (the sparkling waters of the gulf). GLITTER connotes a brilliant sparkling or gleaming (glittering diamonds). GLISTEN applies to the soft sparkle from a wet or oily surface (glistering rain-drenched sidewalks). GLIMMER suggests a faint or wavering gleam (a distant glimmering light). SHIMMER implies a soft tremulous gleaming or a blurred reflection (a shimmering satin dress).

**flash** *n* (1566) **1 a** : a sudden burst of light **b** : a movement of a flag in signaling **2** : a sudden and often brilliant burst (a ~ of wit) **3** : a brief time (I'll be back in a ~) **4 a** : SHOW, DISPLAY; *esp.* : a vulgar ostentatious display **b** : *archaic* : a showy ostentatious person **c** : one that attracts notice; *esp.* : an outstanding athlete **d** : PIZZAZZ, *5 obs* : thieves' slang **6** : something flashed; as **a** : GLIMPSE, LOOK **b** : SMILE **c** : a first brief news report **d** : FLASHLIGHT **2 e** : a quick-spreading flame or momentary intense outburst of radiant heat (1) : FLASHLIGHT **1** (2) : a device for producing a flashlight for taking photographs **7** : RUSH **7a** **8** : the rapid conversion of a liquid into vapor

**flashy** *adj* (ca. 1700) **1 a** : FLASHY, SHOWY **b** : of, relating to, or characteristic of flashy people or things (~ behavior) **c** : of, relating to, or characteristic of persons considered social outcasts (~ language) **2 a** : of sudden origin and short duration (a ~ fire) **b** : involving very brief exposure to an intense altering agent (as heat or cold) (~ drying of milk) (~ freezing of food)

**flash-back** \flāsh-'bak\ *n* (1903) **1** : a recession of flame to an unwanted position (as into a blowpipe) **2 a** : interruption of chronological sequence (as in a film or literary work) by interjection of events of earlier occurrence; *also* : an instance of flashback **b** : a past incident recurring vividly in the mind

**flash back** *vi* (1944) **1** : to focus one's mind on or vividly remember a past time or incident — usu. used with *to* **2** : to employ a flashback (as in a film) — usu. used with *to*

**flash-board** \-,bɔrd, -'bɔrd\ *n* (ca. 1774) : one or more boards projecting above the top of a dam to increase the depth of the water

**flash-bulb** \-,bʊlb\ *n* (1935) : an electric bulb that can be used only once to produce a brief and very bright flash of light for taking photographs

**flash card** *n* (1923) : a card bearing words, numbers, or pictures that is briefly displayed (as by a teacher to a class) usu. as a learning aid

**flash-cube** \flāsh-'kyūb\ *n* (1965) : a cubical device incorporating four flashbulbs

**flash-er** \flā-shər\ *n* (1686) : one that flashes; as **a** : a light (as a traffic signal or automobile light) that catches the attention by flashing **b** : a device for automatically flashing a light **c** : an exhibitionist who flashes

**flash flood** *n* (1940) : a local flood of great volume and short duration generally resulting from heavy rainfall in the immediate vicinity — **flash flood** *vb*

**flash-forward** \flāsh-'fɔr-wɔrd\ *n* (1949) : interruption of chronological sequence (as in a film or literary work) by interjection of events of future occurrence; *also* : an instance of flash-forward

**flash-gun** \-,gʌn\ *n* (1925) : a device for producing a bright flash of light for photography

**flash-ing** \flā-shiŋ\ *n* (1742) : sheet metal used in waterproofing (as at roof valleys or hips or the angle between a chimney and a roof)

**flash in the pan** [fr. the firing of the priming in the pan of a flintlock musket without discharging the piece] (1901) **1** : a sudden spasmodic effort that accomplishes nothing **2** : one that appears promising but turns out to be disappointing or worthless

**flash-lamp** \flāsh-'lāmp\ *n* (1890) : a lamp for producing a brief but intense flash of light (as for taking photographs)

**flash-light** \flāsh-'lit\ *n* (1886) **1 a** : a sudden bright artificial light used in taking photographic pictures **b** : a photograph taken by such a light **2** : a small battery-operated portable electric light

**flash-over** \-,ɔ-vər\ *n* (1892) **1** : an abnormal electrical discharge (as through the air to the ground from a high potential source or between two conducting portions of a structure) **2** : the sudden spread of flame over an area when it becomes heated to the flash point

**flash point** *n* (1878) **1** : the lowest temperature at which vapors above

**plea-bargain** *n* (1964): the negotiation of an agreement between a prosecutor and a defendant whereby the defendant is permitted to plead guilty to a reduced charge — **plea-bargain** *vi* — **plea bargain** *n* [*plea*, *v*plach, 'plach] *vt* [ME *plechen*, fr. ONF *plechier*, fr. (assumed) *plectere*, alter. of *plectere* to braid — more at **PLY**] (14c): INTER-  
**plead** *vb* **plead** *vd* ('plē-dād) or **pled** ('plēd) *vt*; **plead-**  
**plead** (ME *plaiden* to institute a lawsuit, fr. MF *plaidier*, fr. *plaid* *plea*) *vi*  
 (14c) 1: to argue a case or cause in a court of law 2 a: to make an al-  
 legation in an action or other legal proceeding; *esp*: to answer the pre-  
 scription of the other party by denying facts therein stated or by  
 pleading new facts b: to conduct pleadings 3: to make a plea of a  
 specified nature (~ not guilty) 4 a: to argue for or against a claim  
 as to entreat or appeal earnestly ~ *vt* 1: to maintain (as a case or  
 cause) in a court of law or other tribunal 2: to allege in or by way of a  
 legal plea 3: to offer as a plea usu. in defense, apology, or excuse —  
**plead-able** ('plē-dā-bəl) *adj* — **plead-er** *n* — **plead-ing-ly** ('plē-dij-ŋl)  
**pleading** *n* (14c) 1: advocacy of a cause in a court of law 2 a: one of  
 the formal usu. written allegations and counter-allegations made alter-  
 nately by the parties in a legal action or proceeding b: the action or  
 process performed by the parties in presenting such formal allegations  
 until a single point at issue is produced c: the introduction of one of  
 these allegations and *esp* the first one d: the body of rules according  
 to which these allegations are framed 3: the act or an instance of  
 making a plea 4: a sincere entreaty  
**pleas-ance** ('plē-zən(t)s) *n* (14c) 1: a feeling of pleasure; DELIGHT 2  
 a pleasant rest or recreation place usu. attached to a mansion  
**pleas-ant** ('plē-zənt) *adj* [ME *pleasant*, fr. MF *plaisant*, fr. prp. of *plaisir*  
 (14c) 1: having qualities that tend to give pleasure; AGREEABLE (a ~  
 day) 2: having or characterized by pleasing manners, behavior, or  
 appearance — **pleas-ant-ly** *adv* — **pleas-ant-ness** *n*  
**pleas-ant-ry** ('zən-trē) *n*, *pl* -ries (1655) 1: an agreeable playfulness in  
 conversation; BANTER 2: a humorous act or remark; JEST 3: a po-  
 lite social remark (exchanged *pleas-antries*)  
**pleas-ure** ('plē-zhər, 'plā-) *n* [ME *plesure*, fr. MF *plaisir*, fr. L  
*placere*; akin to L *placare* to placate and perh. to Gk *plak-*, *plax* flat sur-  
 face — more at FLUXE] *vi* (14c) 1: to afford or give pleasure or satis-  
 faction 2: LIKE, WISH (do as you ~) 3 *archaic*: to have the in-  
 tention (will you ~ to enter the carriage — Charles Dickens) ~ *vt* 1:  
 give pleasure to; GRATIFY 2: to be the will or pleasure of (may it ~  
 your Majesty) — **pleas-er** ('plē-zər) *n*  
**please** *adv* (1667) 1 — used as a function word to express politeness or  
 emphasis in a request (~ come in) 2 — used as a function word to  
 express polite affirmation (have some tea? *Please*)  
**pleas-ing** ('plē-zin) *adj* (14c): giving pleasure; AGREEABLE (the sun's  
 ~ warmth) — **pleas-ing-ly** (-lī) *adv* — **pleas-ing-ness** *n*  
**pleas-ur-able** ('plē-zhər-ə-bəl, 'plāzh-; 'plē-zhər-, 'plā-) *adj* (1579): PLEAS-  
 ANT, GRATIFYING — **pleas-ur-abil-ity** ('plēzh-rə-'bi-lə-tē, 'plāzh-;  
 'plē-zhər-, 'plā-) *n* — **pleas-ur-able-ness** ('plēzh-rə-bəl-nəs, 'plāzh-;  
 'plē-zhər-, 'plā-) *n* — **pleas-ur-ably** (-blī) *adv*  
**pleas-ure** ('plē-zhər, 'plā-) *n* [ME *plesure*, alter. of *plēsir*, fr. MF *plaisir*,  
 fr. *plaisir* to please] (14c) 1: DESIRE, INCLINATION (wait upon his ~  
 — Shak.) 2: a state of gratification 3 a: sensual gratification b  
 frivolous amusement 4: a source of delight or joy  
**pleas-ure** *vb* **pleas-ured**; **pleas-ur-ing** ('plēzh-rin, 'plāzh-; 'plē-zhər-,  
 'plā-) *vt* (1537) 1: to give pleasure to; GRATIFY 2: to give sexual  
 pleasure to ~ *vi* 1: to take pleasure; DELIGHT 2: to seek pleasure  
**pleas-ure-dome** *n* (1797): a place of pleasurable entertainment or recrea-  
 tion; RESORT  
**pleas-ure-less** ('plē-zhər-ləs, 'plā-) *adj* (1814): giving no pleasure  
**pleas-ure-prin-ciple** *n* (1912): a tendency for individual behavior to be  
 directed toward immediate satisfaction of instinctual drives and imme-  
 diate relief from pain or discomfort  
**pleat** ('plēt) *vt* [ME *pleiten*, fr. *pleit*, *plete* *plait*] (14c) 1: FOLD: *esp*: to  
 arrange in pleats (~ a skirt) 2: **PLAIT** 2 — **pleat-er** *n*  
**pleat** *n* [ME *plete*] (15c): a fold in cloth made by doubling material  
 over on itself; *also*: something resembling such a fold — **pleat-less**  
 (-ləs) *adj*  
**pleb** ('pleb) *n* (1865): PLEBEIAN  
**plebe** ('pleb) *n* [obs. *plebe* common people, fr. F *plebe*, fr. L *plebs*]  
 (1833): a freshman at a military or naval academy  
**ple-be-ian** ('pli-'bē-ən) *n* [L *plebeius* of the common people, fr. *plebs*  
 common people] (1533) 1: a member of the Roman plebs 2: one of  
 the common people — **ple-be-ian-ism** ('və-'ni-zəm) *n*  
**plebe-ian** *adj* (1566) 1: of or relating to plebeians 2: crude or coarse  
 in manner or style; COMMON — **ple-be-ian-ly** *adv*  
**pleb-scite** ('plē-bə-'sīt, -sət *also* -'sēt) *n* [L *plebis scitum* law voted by  
 the comitia, lit., decree of the common people] (1860): a vote by which  
 the people of an entire country or district express an opinion for or  
 against a proposal *esp*. on a choice of government or ruler — **ple-bi-**  
**scita-ry** ('plē-'bi-'sīt-ər-ē, 'pli-, 'plē-bə-'sīt-ə-rē) *adj*  
**plebs** ('plebz, 'pleps) *n*, *pl* **ple-bes** ('plē-'(ə)bz, 'plā-'bās) [L] (1647) 1:  
 the general populace 2: the common people of ancient Rome  
**plec-o-p-ter-an** ('pli-'kəp-tər-ən) *n* [NL *Plecoptera*, group name, fr. Gk  
*plektein* to braid + *pteron* wing — more at **PLY**, FEATHER] (ca. 1890)  
 — **STONE FLY** — **plecopter-an** *adj*  
**plec-trum** ('plek-trəm) *n*, *pl* **plec-tra** (-trə) or **plectrums** [L, fr. Gk  
*plektron*, fr. *plēsein* to strike — more at **PLAIN**] (1626): <sup>3</sup>PICK 2c  
**pledge** ('plej) *n* [ME, security, fr. MF *plege*, fr. LL *plebium*, fr. (as-  
 sumed) LL *plēbere* to pledge, prob. of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *pflegan*  
 to take care of — more at **PLIGHT**] (14c) 1 a: a bailment of a chattel  
 as security for a debt or other obligation without involving transfer of  
 title b: the chattel so delivered c: the contract incidental to such a  
 bailment 2 a: the state of being held as a security or guaranty b  
 something given as security for the performance of an act 3: a to-  
 ken, sign, or earnest of something else 4: a gage of battle 5: TOAST 3  
 6 a: a binding promise or agreement to do or forbear b (1): a promise  
 to join a fraternity, sorority, or secret society (2): a person who has so  
 promised

**pledg-ee** ('plē-jē) *n* (1766): one to whom a pledge is given  
**pled-get** ('plē-jət) *n* [origin unknown] (ca. 1540): a compress or pad  
 used to apply medication to or absorb discharges (as from a wound)  
**plegia** *n* *comb form* [NL, fr. Gk -*plegia*, fr. *plēsein* to strike — more at  
**PLAIN**] : paralysis (diplegia)  
**pleiad** ('plē-əd, 'plā-, -ad, chiefly Brit 'pli-) *n* [F *Pléiade*, group of seven  
 16th cent. Fr. poets, fr. MF, group of seven tragic poets of ancient Al-  
 exandria, fr. Gk *Pleiad-*, *Pleias*, fr. sing. of *Pleiades*] (ca. 1839): a group  
 of usu. seven illustrious or brilliant persons or things  
**Pleiad** *n*: any of the Pleiades  
**Ple-i-a-des** ('plē-ə-'dēz, 'plā-, chiefly Brit 'pli-) *n* *pl* [L, fr. Gk] 1: the seven  
 daughters of Atlas turned into a group of stars in Greek mythology  
 2: a conspicuous cluster of stars in the constellation Taurus that in-  
 cludes six stars in the form of a very small dipper  
**plein air** ('plān-'ar, -'er; ple-'nar, -'ner) *adj* [F, open air] (1894) 1: of or  
 relating to painting in outdoor daylight 2: of or relating to a branch  
 of impressionism that attempts to represent outdoor light and air —  
**plein-air-ism** ('plā-'nar-'i-zəm, ple-, -'ner-) *n* — **plein-air-ist** (-ist) *n*  
**pleio-** or **plio-** *comb form* [Gk *pleiōn*, *pleiōn* — more at **PLUS**]  
 : more (pleiotropic) (pleomorphic) (Pliocene)  
**pleio-tro-pic** ('pli-ə-'trō-pik, -'trā-) *adj* (1938): producing more than  
 one genetic effect; *specif*: having multiple phenotypic expressions (a ~  
 gene) — **plei-ot-ro-py** ('pli-ə-'trō-pē) *n*  
**Pleis-to-cene** ('plis-tə-'sen) *adj* [Gk *pleistos* most + ISV -*cene*; akin to  
 Gk *pleiōn* more] (1839): of, relating to, or being the earlier epoch of  
 the Quaternary or the corresponding system of rocks — see GEOLOGIC  
 TIME table — **Pleistocene** *n*  
**ple-na-ry** ('plē-nə-rē, 'plē-) *adj* [ME, fr. LL *plenarius*, fr. L *plenus* full —  
 more at **FULL**] (15c) 1: complete in every respect; ABSOLUTE, UN-  
 QUALIFIED (~ power) 2: fully attended or constituted by all entitled  
 to be present (a ~ session) *syn* see **FULL**  
**plen-ary indul-gence** *n* (1675): a remission of the entire temporal pun-  
 ishment for sin  
**ple-ni-po-tent** ('pli-'ni-pə-'tənt) *adj* [LL *plenipotenti-*, *plenipotens*, fr. L  
*plenus* + *potenti-*, *potens* powerful — more at **POTENT**] (1658): PLENIPO-  
 TENTIARY  
**plen-i-po-ten-tia-ry** ('plē-nə-pə-'ten(t)-sh(ə)-rē, -shē-'er-ē) *adj* [ML  
*plenipotentiarius*, *adj.* & *n.*, fr. LL *plenipotenti-*, *plenipotens*] (ca. 1645)  
 1: invested with full power 2: of or relating to a plenipotentiary  
**plen-i-po-tenti-ary** *n*, *pl* -ries (ca. 1656): a person and *esp.* a diplomatic  
 agent invested with full power to transact business  
**plen-ish** ('plē-nish) *vt* [ME (Sc) *plenysen* to fill up, fr. MF *pleniss-*, stem  
 of *plenir*, fr. *plen* full, fr. L *plenus*] (1513) chiefly Brit: EQUIP  
**plen-i-tude** ('plē-nə-'tūd, -'tyūd) *n* [ME *plentitude*, fr. MF or L; MF, fr. L  
*plentitudo*, fr. *plenus*] (15c) 1: the quality or state of being full; COM-  
 PLETENESS 2: a great sufficiency; ABUNDANCE  
**plen-i-tu-di-nous** ('plē-nə-'tūd-nəs, -'tyūd-, -'tū-d'n-əs, -'tyū-) *adj* [L  
*plentitudo*, *plentitudo*] (1895): characterized by plentitude  
**plen-te-ous** ('plēn-tē-'əs) *adj* [ME *plenteuous*, *plenteous*, fr. MF *plen-*  
*tivus*, fr. *plentif* abundant, fr. *plente* plenty] (14c) 1: FRUITFUL, PRO-  
 DUCTIVE (a ~ harvest — J. G. Frazer) — *usu.* used with *in* or *of* (the  
 seasons had been ~ in corn — George Eliot) 2: constituting or exist-  
 ing in plenty (~ grace with thee is found — Charles Wesley) — **plen-**  
**te-ous-ly** *adv* — **plen-te-ous-ness** *n*  
**plen-ti-ful** ('plēn-ti-'fəl) *adj* (15c) 1: containing or yielding plenty (a ~  
 land) 2: characterized by, constituting, or existing in plenty — **plen-**  
**ti-ful-ly** (-fəl) *adv* — **plen-ti-ful-ness** *n*  
*syn* PLENTIFUL, AMPLE, ABUNDANT, COPIOUS mean more than suffi-  
 cient without being excessive. PLENTIFUL implies a great or rich sup-  
 ply (peaches are *plentiful* this summer). AMPLE implies a generous  
 sufficiency to satisfy a particular requirement (*ample* food to last the  
 winter). ABUNDANT suggests an even greater or richer supply than  
 does PLENTIFUL (streams *abundant* with fish). COPIOUS stresses  
 largeness of supply rather than fullness or richness (*copious* examples  
 of bureaucratic waste).  
**plen-ti-tude** ('plēn-ti-'tūd, -'tyūd) *n* [by alter. (influenced by *plenty*)]  
 (1615): PLENTITUDE  
**plen-ty** ('plēn-tē) *n* [ME *plente*, fr. OF *plente*, fr. LL *plēnitat-*, *plēnitās*,  
 fr. L, fullness, fr. *plenus* full — more at **FULL**] (13c) 1 a: a full or more  
 than adequate amount or supply (had ~ of time to finish the job) b  
 a large number or amount (in ~ of trouble) 2: the quality or state  
 of being copious; PLENTIFULNESS  
**plenty** *adj* (14c) 1: plentiful in amount, number, or supply (if reasons  
 were as ~ as blackberries — Shak.) 2: AMPLE (~ work to be done  
 — Time)  
*usage* Many commentators object to use of sense 2 in writing; it ap-  
 pears to be limited chiefly to spoken English. Sense 1 is literary but is  
 no longer in common use.  
**plenty** *adv* (1842): more than sufficiently: to a considerable degree  
 (the nights were ~ cold — F. B. Gipson)  
*usage* Many handbooks advise avoiding the adverb *plenty* in writing;  
 "use *very*, *quite*, or a more precise word," they advise. Actually *plenty*  
 is often a more precise word than its recommended replacements;  
*very*, *fully*, or *quite* will not work as well in these typical quotations  
 (it's already *plenty* hot for us in the kitchen without some dolt open-  
 ing the oven — C. H. Bridges) (may not be rising quite as rapidly as  
 other health costs, but it is going up *plenty* fast — *Changing Times*). It  
 is not used in more formal writing.  
**ple-num** ('plē-nəm, 'plē-) *n* [NL, fr. L, neut. of *plenus*] (1678) 1 a:  
 a space or all space every part of which is full of matter b: an air-filled  
 space in a structure; *esp*: one that receives air from a blower for distri-  
 bution (as in a ventilation system) 2: a general assembly of all mem-  
 bers *esp.* of a legislative body 3: the quality or state of being full  
**pleo-ch-ro-ism** ('plē-'ā-krə-'wi-zəm) *n* [ISV *pleochroic*, fr. *pleio-* + Gk  
*chrōs* skin, color] (1857): the property of a crystal of showing different  
 colors when viewed by light that vibrates parallel to different axes —  
**pleo-chro-ic** ('plē-ə-'krō-ik) *adj*

ʌ\ abut ʌ\ kitten, F table ʌr\ further ʌ\ ash ʌ\ ace ʌ\ mop, mar

**pock** \p'ok\ *n* [ME *pokke*, fr. OE *pocce*; akin to MLG & MD *pocke* pock] a pustule in an eruptive disease (as smallpox); also : a spot (bef. 12c) suggesting such a pustule

**pock** *vt* (1841) : to mark with or as if with pocks : PIT

**pocket** \p'ok-et\ *n* [ME *poket*, fr. ONF *pokete*, dim. of *poke* bag, of time origin; akin to OE *pocca* bag] (15c) **1 a** : a small bag carried by a person : PURSE **b** : a small bag that is sewed or inserted in a garment so that it is open at the top or side (coat ~) **2** : supply of money **3** : RECEPTACLE, CONTAINER : as **a** : an opening at the corner or side of a billiard table **b** : a superficial pouch in some animals **4** : a small often isolated area or group (c ~s of unemployment) : **a** (1) a cavity containing a deposit (as of gold, water, or gas) (2) : a small body of ore **b** : AIR POCKET **5** : a place for a batten made by sewing a strip on a sail **6 a** : BLIND ALLEY **b** : the position of a contestant in a race hemmed in by others **c** : an area formed by blockers from which a football quarterback attempts to pass **7** : the concave area at the base of the finger sections of a baseball glove or mitt in which the ball is normally caught — **pocketful** \-f'ul\ *n* — **in one's pocket** : in one's control or possession — **in pocket** **1** : provided with funds **2** : in the position of having made a profit — **out of pocket** **1** : low on money or funds **2** : having suffered a loss

**pocket** *vt* (1589) **1 a** : to put or enclose in or as if in one's pocket (send the change) **b** : to appropriate to one's own use : STEAL **c** : to refuse assent to (a bill) by a pocket veto **2** : to put up with : ACCEPT **3** : to set aside : SUPPRESS (send his pride) **4 a** : to hem in **b** : to drive (a ball) into a pocket of a pool table **5** : to cover or supply with pockets

**pocket-able** \p'a-ka-tə-bal\ *adj*

**pocket-adj** (1612) **1 a** : small enough to be carried in the pocket **b** : SMALL, MINIATURE (a ~ park) **2 a** : of or relating to money **b** : carried in or paid from one's own pocket

**pocket battleship** *n* (1930) : a small German battleship built so as to come within treaty limitations of tonnage and armament

**pocket billiards** *n pl* but *usu sing in constr* (1913) : POOL, 2b

**pocket-book** \p'a-kət-'buk\ *n* (1617) **1** often **pocket book** : a small esp. paperback book that can be carried in the pocket **2** : a flat typically leather folding case for money or personal papers that can be carried in a pocket or handbag **3 a** : PURSE **b** : HANDBAG **2** : financial resources : INCOME

**pocketbook** *adj* (1894) : relating to or involving economic interests (issues)

**pocket borough** *n* (1856) : an English constituency controlled before parliamentary reform by a single person or family

**pocket edition** *n* (1715) **1** : POCKETBOOK **1** **2** : a miniature form of something

**pocket gopher** *n* (1873) : GOPHER 2a

**pocket-handkerchief** *n* (1645) : a handkerchief carried in the pocket

**pocket-knife** \p'a-kət-'ni\ *n* (1727) : a knife that has one or more blades that fold into the handle and that can be carried in the pocket

**pocket money** *n* (1632) : money for small personal expenses

**pocket mouse** *n* (1884) : any of various nocturnal burrowing rodents (family Heteromyidae) that resemble mice, live in arid parts of western No. America, and have long hind legs and tail and fur-lined cheek pouches

**pocket-size** \p'a-kət-'siz\ *adj* also **pock-et-sized** (1907) **1** : of a size convenient for carrying in the pocket **2** : SMALL (a ~ country)

**pocket veto** *n* (1842) : an indirect veto of a legislative bill by an executive through retention of the bill unsigned until after adjournment of the legislature — **pocket veto** *vt*

**pock-mark** \p'ok-'mārk\ *n* (ca. 1673) : a mark, pit, or depressed scar caused by smallpox or acne; also : a pocket mouse

**pockmark** *vt* (1756) : to cover with or as if with pockmarks : PIT

**pocky** \p'a-kē\ *adj* (14c) : covered with pocks

**poco** \p'o-(j)kō, 'pō-\ *adv* [It. *l. paucus* — more at FEW] (1724) : to a slight degree : SOMEWHAT — used to qualify a direction in music (— allegro)

**poco** *adv* \p'o-kō-(j)ā-'pō-(j)kō, 'pō-kō-(j)ā-'pō-\ *adv* [It. (ca. 1854)] : little by little : GRADUALLY — used as a direction in music

**poco-cu-ran-te** \p'o-kō-kyū-'ran-tē, -kū-\ *adj* [It. *poco curante* caring little] (1815) : INDIFFERENT, NONCHALANT — **poco-cu-ran-tism** \-ran-ti-zəm\ *n*

**poco-sin** \p'a-'kō-s'n\ *n* [prob. fr. Virginia or North Carolina Algonquian] (1634) : an upland swamp of the coastal plain of the southeastern U.S.

**pod** \p'ad\ *n* [origin unknown] (1573) **1** : a bit socket in a brace **2** : a straight groove or channel in the barrel of an auger

**pod** *n* [prob. alter. of *cod* bag — more at CODPIECE] (1688) **1** : a dry desiccated pericarp or fruit that is composed of one or more carpels; esp. LEGUME **2 a** : an anatomical pouch **b** : a grasshopper egg case **3** : a tapered and roughly cylindrical body of ore or mineral **4** : a usu. protective container or housing; as **a** : a streamlined compartment (as for fuel) under the wings or fuselage of an aircraft **b** : a compartment (as for personnel, a power unit, or an instrument) on a ship or craft

**pod** *vi* **pod-ded**; **pod-ding** (1734) : to produce pods

**pod** *n* [origin unknown] (1832) : a number of animals (as whales) clustered together

**pod** *n comb form* [Gk *-podos*, fr. *pod-*, *pous* foot — more at FOOT] : foot : part resembling a foot (pleopod)

**pod-ag-ra** \p'a-'da-grə\ *n* [ME, fr. L, fr. Gk, lit., foot trap, fr. *pod-*, *pous* + *agros* hunt, catch; prob. akin to Gk *agein* to drive, lead — more at AGENT] (14c) : a painful condition of the big toe caused by gout

**pod corn** *n* (1893) : an Indian corn that has each kernel enclosed in a chaffy shell similar to that of other cereals

**po-de-sta** \p'o-də-'stā\ *n* [It. *podestà*, lit., power, fr. L. *potestas*, *potestas*, lit. reg. fr. *potis* able — more at POTENT] (1548) : a chief magistrate in a medieval Italian municipality

**podgy** \p'od-jē\ *adj* (1846) : fat

— **po-di-at-ric** \p'o-dē-'a-trik\ *adj* — **po-di-a-trist** \p'a-'dī-a-trist, pō-\ *n*

**po-di-um** \p'o-dē-əm\ *n, pl* **podiums** or **po-dia** \-dē-\ [L — more at PEW] (1743) **1** : a low wall serving as a foundation or terrace wall; as **a** : one around the arena of an ancient amphitheater serving as a base for the tiers of seats **b** : the masonry under the stylobate of a temple **2 a** : a dais esp. for an orchestral conductor **b** : LECTERN

**podium** *n comb form, pl -podia* [NL, fr. Gk *podion*, dim. of *pod-*, *pous* foot — more at FOOT] : foot : part resembling a foot (pseudopodium)

**podophyllin** \p'o-də-'fī-lən\ *n* [ISV, fr. NL *Podophyllum*] (1851) : a resin obtained from podophyllum and used in medicine as a caustic

**podophyllum** \-'fī-ləm\ *n, pl -phyllil* \-'fī-lī\ or **-phyllums** [NL, fr. *Podophyllum*, genus of herbs including the mayapple] (1842) : the dried rhizome and rootlet of the mayapple that is used as a caustic or as a source of the more effective podophyllin

**Podunk** \p'ō-dəŋk\ *n* [*Podunk*, village in Mass. or locality in Conn.] (1846) : a small, unimportant, and isolated town

**pod-zol** also **pod-sol** \p'ad-'zōl\ *n* [Russ] (1908) : any of a group of zonal soils that develop in a moist climate esp. under coniferous or mixed forest and have an organic mat and a thin organic-mineral layer above a light gray leached layer resting on a dark illuvial horizon enriched with amorphous clay — **pod-zol-ic** \p'ad-'zō-līk, 'zō-\ *adj*

**pod-zol-li-za-tion** also **pod-sol-li-za-tion** \p'ad-'zō-lā-'zā-shən\ *n* (1912) : a process of soil formation esp. in humid regions involving principally leaching of the upper layers with accumulation of material in lower layers and development of characteristic horizons; *specif* : the development of a podzol — **pod-zol-ize** \p'ad-'zō-'līz\ *vb*

**po-em** \p'o-əm, -im, 'pōm-also 'pō(-)im, 'pō(-)em\ *n* [MF *poeme*, fr. L *poema*, fr. Gk *poēma*, fr. *poiein*] (15c) **1** : a composition in verse **2** : something suggesting a poem (as in expressiveness, lyricism, or formal grace) (the house we stayed in . . . was itself a ~ — H. J. Laski)

**po-ey** \p'o-ə-zē, -sē\ *n, pl po-ey-sies* [ME *poesie*, fr. MF, fr. L *poesis*, fr. Gk *poiēsis*, lit., creation, fr. *poiein*] (14c) **1 a** : a poem or body of poems **b** : POETRY **c** : artificial or sentimentalized poetic writing **2** : poetic inspiration

**po-et** \p'o-ət, -it also 'pō(-)it\ *n* [ME, fr. MF *poete*, fr. L *poeta*, fr. Gk *poiētēs* maker, poet, fr. *poiein* to make; akin to Skt *cinoti* he gathers, heaps up] (14c) **1** : one who writes poetry : a maker of verses **2** : one (as a creative artist) of great imaginative and expressive capabilities and special sensitivity to the medium

**po-et-aster** \p'o-ə-'tas-tər\ *n* [NL, fr. L *poeta* + *-aster* -aster] (1599) : an inferior poet

**po-et-ess** \p'o-ə-'təs, 'pō(-)i-\ *n* (1530) : a girl or woman who is a poet

**po-et-ic** \p'o-'ē-tik\ *adj* (1530) **1 a** : of, relating to, or characteristic of poets or poetry **b** : given to writing poetry **2** : written in verse

**po-et-i-cal** \-ti-kəl\ *adj* (14c) **1** : POETIC **2** : being beyond or above the truth of history or nature : IDEALIZED (had ~ ideas about love) — **po-et-i-cal-ly** \-k(-)lē\ *adv* — **po-et-i-cal-ness** \-ti-kəl-nəs\ *n*

**po-et-i-cism** \p'o-'ē-tā-'sī-zəm\ *n* (1847) : an archaic, trite, or strained expression in poetry

**po-et-i-cize** \-'sīz\ *vt* -cized; -ciz-ing (1804) : to give a poetic quality to

**poetic justice** *n* (ca. 1890) : an outcome in which vice is punished and virtue rewarded usu. in a manner peculiarly or ironically appropriate

**poetic license** *n* (1819) : LICENSE 4

**po-et-ics** \p'o-'ē-tiks\ *n pl* but *sing or pl in constr* (ca. 1741) **1 a** : a treatise on poetry or aesthetics **b** also **po-et-ic** \-tik\ : poetic theory or practice **2** : poetic feelings or utterances

**po-et-ize** \p'o-ə-'tīz\ *vb* -ized; -iz-ing *vi* (1581) : to compose poetry ~ *vt* : POETICIZE — **po-et-iz-er** *n*

**poet laureate** *n, pl* **poets laureate** or **poet laureates** (15c) **1** : a poet honored for achievement in his art **2** : a poet appointed for life by an English sovereign as a member of the royal household and formerly expected to compose poems for court and national occasions **3** : one regarded by a country or region as its most eminent or representative poet

**po-et-ry** \p'o-ə-'trē, -ī-trē also 'pō(-)j-trē\ *n* (14c) **1 a** : metrical writing : VERSE **b** : the productions of a poet : POEMS **2** : writing that formulates a concentrated imaginative awareness of experience in language chosen and arranged to create a specific emotional response through meaning, sound, and rhythm **3 a** : something likened to poetry esp. in beauty of expression **b** : poetic quality or aspect (the ~ of dance)

**po-faced** \p'o-'fāst\ *adj* [perh. fr. *po* chamber pot, toilet, fr. F *pot* pot] (1934) *Brit* : having an assumed solemn, serious, or earnest expression or manner : piously or hypocritically solemn

**pog-o-nip** \p'ag-ə-'nīp\ *n* [Shoshone *payinappih* cloud] (1865) : a dense winter fog containing frozen particles that is formed in deep mountain valleys of the western U.S.

**po-go-noph-o-ran** \p'o-gə-'nā-fə-rən\ *n* [NL *Pogonophora*, fr. Gk *pōgōnophora*, neut. pl. of *pōgōnophoros* wearing a beard, fr. *pōgōn* beard + *-phoros* -phor] (1963) : any of a phylum (Pogonophora) of marine wormlike animals of uncertain systematic relationships that live in chitinous tubes, have obscure segmentation, and lack a mouth and digestive tract — **pogonophoran** *adj*

**po-go stick** \p'o-(j)gō-\ *n* [fr. *Pogo*, a trademark] (1921) : a pole with a strong spring at the bottom and two footrests on which a person stands and moves along with a series of jumps

**po-grom** \p'o-'grəm, 'pā-; pō-'grām, pā-\ *n* [Yiddish, fr. Russ, lit., devastation] (1903) : an organized massacre of helpless people; *specif* : such a massacre of Jews

**po-grom** *vt* (1915) : to massacre or destroy in a pogrom

**po-grom-ist** \p'o-'grō-mist, 'pā-; pō-'grā-, pā-\ *n* (1907) : one who organizes or takes part in a pogrom

**po-gy** \p'o-gē\ *n, pl* **pogies** [by shortening & alter. fr. *poghaden*, perh. fr. Eastern Abenaki] (ca. 1847) : MENHADEN



P O R