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*Compiled by the Editors of
Webster's New World Dictionaries*

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*With Principal Thesaurus Text by
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tallic compounds, synthetically produced, which can be molded and hardened for commercial use 2 [Inf.] a credit card or credit cards, or credit based on their use —*plasticity* (-tis'ə tē) *n.*

plasticize (-tə siz'z) *vt., vi.* -cized', -ciz'ing to make or become plastic

plastic surgery surgery dealing with the repair of deformed or destroyed parts of the body, as by transferring skin, bone, etc. from other parts —*plastic surgeon*

plat (plat) *n.* [var. of *PLAT*] 1 a small piece of ground 2 a map or plan, as of a subdivision —*vt.* *platted*, *platt'ing* to make a map or plan of

plate (plāt) *n.* [Fr *platys*, broad] 1 a smooth, flat, thin piece of metal, etc., specif. one on which an engraving is cut 2 an impression taken from an engraved surface 3 dishes, utensils, etc. of, or plated with, silver or gold 4 a shallow dish 5 the food in a dish; a course 6 a denture, specif. that part of it which fits to the mouth 7 *Baseball* short for HOME PLATE 8 *Photog.* a sheet of glass, metal, etc. coated with a film sensitive to light 9 *Printing* a cast to be printed from —*vt.* *plated*, *platt'ing* 1 to coat with gold, silver, etc. 2 to cover with metal plates

plateau (plā tō') *n.* [Fr: see prec.] 1 an elevated tract of level land 2 a period of relative stability or little change

plate glass polished, clear glass in thick sheets, for windows, mirrors, etc.

platelet (plāt'lit) *n.* a small blood cell involved in clotting

platen (plāt'n) *n.* [Fr *plat*, flat] 1 in a printing press, a flat metal plate which presses the paper against the type 2 a typewriter roller on which the keys strike

plate tectonics (tek tăn'iks) *Geol.* the theory that the earth's surface consists of plates whose constant motion explains continental drift, etc.

platform (plāt'fōrm) *n.* [Fr *plate-forme*, lit., flat form] 1 a raised horizontal surface, as a stage for speakers, etc. 2 a statement of policy, esp. of a political party

plat-inum (plāt'n əm) *n.* [Fr *plata*, silver] a silvery, metallic chemical element, resistant to corrosion: used for jewelry, etc.

latitude (plāt'ə tōd') *n.* [Fr *lat*, flat, after *latitude*, etc.] a commonplace or trite remark

Plato (plāt'ō) 427?-347? B.C.; Gr. philosopher

Platon-ic (plā tăn'ik) *adj.* 1 of Plato or his philosophy 2 [usually *p-*] not sexual but purely spiritual: said of a relationship, etc.

platoon (plā tōon') *n.* [Fr *peloton*, a ball, group] 1 a military unit composed of two or more squads 2 *Sports* any of the specialized squads making up a team —*vt.* *Sports* to alternate (players) at a position

platter (plāt'ər) *n.* [Fr *plat*, flat] a large, shallow dish, usually oval, for serving food

platy (plāt'ē) *n., pl.* *plat'y*, *plat'ys*, or *plat'ies* [clipped < ModL *Platyocellus*, genus named a brightly colored, freshwater fish of Central America: used in aquariums] **platy-pus** (plāt'ē pəs) *n., pl.* -pus-es or -pi' (-pi') [Fr *platys*, flat + *pous*, foot] a small, egg-laying water mam-

mal of Australia, with webbed feet and a ducklike bill; duckbill

plau-dit (plō'dit) *n.* [Fr *plaudere*, applaud] [usually *pl.*] applause

plau-si-ble (plō'zə bəl) *adj.* [Fr *plaudere*, applaud] seemingly true, trustworthy, honest, etc. —*plau'si-bil'i-ty* *n.*

play (plā) *vi.* [OE *plegan*] 1 to move lightly, rapidly, etc. [sunlight played on the water] 2 to engage in recreation 3 to take part in a game or sport 4 to trifle (with a thing or person) 5 to perform on a musical instrument 6 to give out sounds 7 to act in a specified way (to play dumb) 8 to act in a drama 9 to impose unscrupulously (on another's feelings) —*vt.* 1 to take part in (a game or sport) 2 to oppose (a person, team, etc.) in a game 3 to do, as in fun (to play tricks) 4 to bet on 5 to cause to move, etc.; wield 6 to cause (to play havoc) 7 to perform (music, a drama, etc.) 8 to perform on (an instrument) 9 to act the part of (to play Hamlet) —*n.* 1 motion or activity, esp. when free or rapid 2 freedom for motion or action 3 recreation; sport 4 fun; joking 5 the playing of a game 6 a move or act in a game 7 a dramatic composition or performance; drama —in (or out of) *play Sports* in (or not in) the condition for continuing play: said of a ball, etc. —play down to attach little importance to —played out exhausted —play up [Inf.] to give prominence to —play up to [Inf.] to try to please by flattery

play'act *vi.* 1 to pretend 2 to behave in an affected or dramatic manner —*play'act'ing* *n.*

play'back *n.* 1 reproduction of sounds, images, etc. from a recorded disc, tape, etc. 2 the control or device for such reproduction

play'bill *n.* 1 a poster advertising a play 2 a program of a play, listing the cast, etc.

play'boy *n.* a man of means who is given to pleasure-seeking

play'er *n.* 1 one who plays a specified game, instrument, etc. 2 an actor

play'ful *adj.* 1 fond of play or fun 2 jocular —*play'ful-ly* *adv.* —*play'ful-ness* *n.*

play'go'er (-gō'ər) *n.* one who goes to the theater frequently or regularly

play'ground *n.* a place, often near a school, for outdoor recreation

play'house *n.* 1 a theater for live dramatic productions 2 a small house for children to play in

playing cards cards used in playing various games, arranged in four suits

play'mate *n.* a companion in games and recreation

play'off *n.* a contest to break a tie or to decide a championship

play on words a pun or punning

play'pen *n.* a portable enclosure for an infant to play or crawl in safely

play'thing *n.* a toy

play'wright (-rit') *n.* one who writes plays

pla-za (plā'zə, plaz'ə) *n.* [Sp < L *platea*, street] 1 a public square in a city or town 2 a shopping center 3 a service area along a superhighway

THESAURUS

plate *n.* 1 [A flat surface] lamina, slice, stratum; see PLANE 1. 2 [A full-page illustration] photograph, lithograph, etching; see ILLUSTRATION, PICTURE 3. 3 [A flattish dish] dinner plate, soup plate, salad plate, casserole, dessert plate, platter, trencher, china, serving dish; see also DISH 1. 4 [Food served on a plate] helping, serving, course; see MEAL 2. 5 [In baseball, the base immediately in front of the catcher] home base, home plate, home; see BASE 4.

plate *v.* laminate, stratify, layer, scale, flake, overlay, gild, nickel, bronze, chrome, silver, enamel, encrust, cover.

plateau *n.* tableland, mesa, elevation; see HILL, PLAIN.

platform *n.* 1 [A stage] dais, pulpit, speaker's platform, rostrum, stand, floor, staging, terrace. 2 [A program] principles, policies, the party planks*; see PROGRAM 2.

platoon *n.* detachment, military unit, company; see ARMY 2.

platter *n.* tray, serving dish, meat

platter; see DISH 1, PLATE 3.

plausible *a.* probable, credible, believable; see LIKELY 1.

play *n.* 1 [Amusement] enjoyment, diversion, pleasure; see ENTERTAINMENT. 2 [Recreation] relaxation, game, sport; see ENTERTAINMENT 3. 3 [Fun] frolic, happiness, sportiveness; see FUN. 4 [A drama] performance, musical, show; see DRAMA. 5 [Sport] exhibition, match, competition; see SPORT 1, 3. 6 [Action] activity, movement, working; see ACTION 1. —*make a play for** make advances to, court, try to attract; see TRY 1.

play *v.* 1 [To amuse oneself] entertain oneself, revel, make merry, carouse, play games, rejoice, have a good time, idle away, horse around*. —*Ant.* MOURN, grieve, sulk. 2 [To frolic] frisk, sport, cavort, joke, dance, play games, make jokes, be a practical joker, show off, jump about, skip, gambol, caper. —*Ant.* DRAG, mope, droop. 3 [To produce music] perform, execute, work, cause to sound, finger, pedal, bow, plunk, tin-

kle, pipe, toot, blow, pump, fiddle, sound, strike, scrape, twang, pound, thump, shake, beat, pluck, clash. 4 [To engage in sport] participate, engage, practice; see COMPETE. 5 [To pretend] imagine, suppose, think; see PRETEND 1. —*play down* belittle, hold back, minimize; see RESTRAIN.

player *n.* 1 [One who takes part in a game] team member, athlete, sportsman, sportswoman, amateur, professional, gymnast, acrobat, swimmer, diver, trackman, champ*, pro*, semipro*, jock*; see also CONTESTANT. 2 [An actor] performer, entertainer, thespian; see ACTOR, ACTRESS.

playful *a.* joking, whimsical, comical; see FUNNY 1.

playground *n.* playing field, park, school ground, municipal playground, yard, schoolyard, diamond, gridiron.

playmate *n.* schoolmate, neighbor, companion; see FRIEND.

plaything *n.* gadget, amusement, trinket; see DOLL, GAME 1, TOY 1.

playwright *n.* scriptwriter, dramatist, tragedian; see AUTHOR, WRITER.