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am-bi-tious \-shəs\ *adj*: characterized by ambition — **am-bi-tious-ly** *adv* — **am-bi-tious-ness** *n*
am-biv-a-lence \am-'bi-və-ləns\ *n*: simultaneous attraction toward and repulsion from a person, object, or action — **am-biv-a-lent** \-lənt\ *adj*
am-ble \am-bəl\ *vb* **am-bled**; **am-bling** \-b(ə-)lɪŋ\ : to go at an amble
amble *n*: an easy gait esp. of a horse
am-bro-sia \am-'brō-zh(ē-)ə\ *n*: the food of the Greek and Roman gods — **am-bro-sial** \-zh(ē-)əl\ *adj*
am-bu-lance \am-byə-'ləns\ *n*: a vehicle equipped for carrying the injured or sick
am-bu-lant \am-byə-'lənt\ *adj*: **AMBULATORY**
am-bu-la-to-ry \am-byə-'lə-tōr-ē\ *adj* 1: of, relating to, or adapted to walking 2: able to walk or move about
ambulatory *n, pl -ries*: a sheltered place (as in a cloister) for walking
am-bus-cade \am-bə-'skād\ *n*: **AMBUSH**
am-bush \am-'bʊʃ\ *n*: a trap in which concealed persons wait to attack by surprise — **ambush** *vb*
amdt *abbr* amendment
ameba, ame-boid *var of* AMOEBEA, AMOEBOID
ame-li-o-rate \ə-'mēl-yə-'rāt\ *vb -rat-ed; -rat-ing*: to make or grow better: **IMPROVE** — **ame-li-o-ra-tion** \-mēl-yə-'rā-shən\ *n*
amen \(\jə-)ā-'men, (j)ā-\ *interj* — used esp. at the end of prayers to affirm or express approval
ame-na-ble \ə-'mē-nə-bəl, -'me-\ *adj* 1: **ANSWERABLE** (<~ to the law) 2: **COMPLIANT**
amend \ə-'mend\ *vb* 1: to change for the better: **IMPROVE** 2: to alter formally in phraseology — **amend-able** \-mēn-də-bəl\ *adj*
amend-ment \ə-'mend-mənt\ *n* 1: correction of faults 2: the process of amending a parliamentary motion or a constitution; *also*: the alteration so proposed or made
amends \ə-'mendz\ *n sing or pl*: compensation for injury or loss
ame-ni-ty \ə-'me-nə-tē, -'mē-\ *n, pl -ties* 1: **AGREEABLE-NESS** 2: a gesture observed in social relationships 3: something that serves as a comfort or convenience
Amer *abbr* America; American
amerce \ə-'mɜrs\ *vb* **amerced**; **amerc-ing** 1: to penalize by a fine determined by the court 2: **PUNISH** — **amercement** *n*
Amer-i-ca-na \ə-'mer-ə-'kə-nə, -'kā-\ *n pl*: materials concerning or characteristic of America, its civilization, or its culture
American Indian *n*: a member of any of the aboriginal peoples of No. and So. America except the Eskimos
Amer-i-can-ism \ə-'mer-ə-kə-'ni-zəm\ *n* 1: a characteristic feature of English as used in the U.S. 2: attachment or loyalty to the traditions, interests, or ideals of the U.S. 3: a custom or trait peculiar to the U.S. or to Americans
Amer-i-can-ize \ə-'mer-ə-kə-'nīz\ *vb*: to make or become American — **Amer-i-can-i-za-tion** \ə-'mer-ə-kə-nə-'zā-shən\ *n*
Amer-i-can-ness \ə-'mer-ə-kən-nəs\ *n*: the quality or state of being American
American plan *n*: a hotel plan whereby the daily rates cover the cost of room and three meals
American Sign Language *n*: a sign language for the deaf in which meaning is conveyed by a system of hand gestures and placement
am-er-i-ci-um \ə-'mer-ə-'rīsh-ē-əm, -'rīs-\ *n*: a radioactive metallic chemical element produced artificially from plutonium
AmerInd *abbr* American Indian
Am-er-in-di-an \ə-'mɜ-'rīn-dē-ən\ *n*: **AMERICAN INDIAN** — **Amerindian** *adj*
am-e-thyst \ə-'mɜ-thəst\ *n* [ME *amatiste*, fr. AF & L; AF, fr. L *amethystus*, fr. Gk *amethystos*, lit., remedy against drunkenness, fr. *a-* not + *methyein* to be drunk, fr. *methy* wine] : a gemstone consisting of clear purple or bluish-violet quartz
ami-a-ble \ə-'mē-ə-bəl\ *adj* 1: **AGREEABLE** (an ~ com-edy) 2: having a friendly and sociable disposition — **ami-a-bil-i-ty** \ə-'mē-ə-'bi-lə-tē\ *n* — **ami-a-ble-ness** *n* — **ami-a-bly** \ə-'mē-ə-blē\ *adv*
am-i-ca-ble \ə-'mi-kə-bəl\ *adj*: **FRIENDLY, PEACEABLE** (an ~ settlement of differences) — **am-i-ca-bil-i-ty** \ə-'mi-kə-'bi-lə-tē\ *n* — **am-i-ca-bly** \ə-'mi-kə-blē\ *adv*

amid \ə-'mɪd\ or **amidst** \-'mɪdst\ *prep*: in or into the middle of: **AMONG**
amid-ships \ə-'mɪd-'ʃɪps\ *adv*: in or near the middle of a ship
ami-no acid \ə-'mē-nō-\ *n*: any of numerous nitrogen-containing acids that include some which are used by cells to build proteins
amir *var of* EMIR
amiss \ə-'mɪs\ *adv* 1: **WRONGLY** 2: **ASTRAY** (something had gone ~) 3: **IMPERFECTLY**
amiss *adj* 1: **WRONG** 2: out of place
am-i-ty \ə-'mā-tē\ *n, pl -ties*: **FRIENDSHIP**; *esp*: friendly relations between nations
am-me-ter \ə-'mē-tər\ *n*: an instrument for measuring electric current esp. in amperes
am-mo \ə-'mō\ *n*: **AMMUNITION**
am-mo-nia \ə-'mō-nyə\ *n* [NL, fr. L *sal ammoniacus* sal ammoniac (ammonium chloride), lit., salt of Ammon, fr. Gk *ammōniakos* of Ammon, fr. *Ammōn* Ammon, an Egyptian god near one of whose temples it was extracted] 1: a colorless gaseous compound of nitrogen and hydrogen used in refrigeration and in the making of fertilizers and explosives 2: a solution (ammonia water) of ammonia in water
am-mo-ni-um \ə-'mō-nē-əm\ *n*: an ion or chemical group derived from ammonia by combination with hydrogen
ammonium chloride *n*: a white crystalline volatile salt used in batteries and as an expectorant
am-mu-ni-tion \ə-'mju-'ni-shən\ *n* 1: projectiles fired from guns 2: explosive items used in war 3: material for use in attack or defense
Amn *abbr* airman
am-ne-sia \am-'nē-zhə\ *n* 1: abnormal loss of memory 2: the selective overlooking of events or acts not favorable to one's purpose — **am-ne-si-ac** \-zhē-'ak, -zē-\ or **am-ne-sic** \-zɪk, -sɪk\ *adj* or *n*
am-nes-ty \am-'nə-stē\ *n, pl -ties*: an act granting a pardon to a group of individuals — **amnesty** *vb*
am-ni-o-cen-te-sis \ə-'mni-ō-'sen-'tē-səs\ *n, pl -te-ses* \-sēz\ : the surgical insertion of a hollow needle through the abdominal wall and uterus of a pregnant female esp. to obtain fluid used to check the fetus for chromosomal abnormality and to determine sex
am-ni-ot-ic fluid \ə-'mni-ō-'tɪk-\ *n*: the watery fluid in which the embryo or fetus is immersed
amoeba *also* **ame-ba** \ə-'mē-bə\ *n, pl -bas* or **-bae** \-(j)be\ : any of various tiny one-celled protozoans that lack permanent cell organs and occur esp. in water and soil — **amoebic** \-bɪk\ *adj*
amoeboid *also* **ame-boid** \-bɔɪd\ *adj*: resembling an amoeba esp. in moving or readily changing shape
amok \ə-'mɒk, -'māk\ or **amuck** \-'mæk\ *adv*: in a violent, frenzied, or uncontrolled manner (run ~)
among \ə-'mɒŋ\ *also* **amongst** \-'mɒŋst\ *prep* 1: in or through the midst of 2: in the number, class, or company of 3: in shares to each of 4: by common action of
amon-till-a-do \ə-'mān-tə-'lā-dō\ *n, pl -dos* [Sp]: a medium dry sherry
amor-al \ə-'mɔr-əl\ *adj* 1: neither moral nor immoral; *esp*: being outside the sphere to which moral judgments apply 2: lacking moral sensibility — **amor-al-ly** *adv*
am-o-rous \ə-'mɔ-rəs\ *adj* 1: inclined to love 2: being in love 3: of or indicative of love — **am-o-rous-ly** *adv* — **am-o-rous-ness** *n*
amor-phous \ə-'mɔr-fəs\ *adj* 1: **SHAPELESS, FORMLESS** 2: not crystallized
am-or-tize \ə-'mɔr-'tīz, ə-'mɔr-\ *vb -tized; -tiz-ing*: to extinguish (as a mortgage) usu. by payment on the principal at the time of each periodic interest payment — **amor-ti-za-tion** \ə-'mɔr-tə-'zā-shən, ə-'mɔr-\ *n*
Amos \ə-'mɔs\ — see **BIBLE** table
amount \ə-'maʊnt\ *vb* 1: to be equivalent 2: to reach a total: add up
amount *n* 1: the total number or quantity 2: a principal sum plus the interest on it
amour \ə-'mʊr, ə-, a-\ *n* 1: a love affair esp. when illicit 2: **LOVER**
amour pro-pre \ə-'mʊr-'prɔpr, ə-, -'prɔpr\ *n* [F]: **SELF-ESTEEM**
amp \amp\ *n* 1: **AMPERE** 2: **AMPLIFIER**; *also*: a unit consisting of an electronic amplifier and a loudspeaker