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730 Messrs. • metaphrase

Messrs. Vme-särz pl of MR. (ca. Jones, Brown, and Robinson) mess-usage Vme-wif n [ME, fr. AF, prob. alter. of OF *mesnage* — more at MÉNAGE] (14c) : PREMISE *messy* 'mē-sē' adj mess-i-er; -est (1843) 1 : marked by confusion, disorder, or dirt; UNTIDY (ca. ~ room) 2 : lacking neatness or precision: CARELESS, SLOVENLY (<~ thinking) 3 : extremely unpleasant or trying (ca. ~ lawsuits) — **mess-i-ly** Vme-sā-lex adv — **mess-i-ness** Vme-sē-nis n

mesti-zo \mē'stē-zō\ n [Sp, fem. of *mestizo*] (ca. 1582) : a woman who is a mestizo

mesti-zo \mē'stō\ n, pl -zos [Sp, fr. *mestizo*, adj., mixed, fr. LL *mixtus*, fr. L *mixtus*, pp. of *miscere* to mix — more at MIX] (1582) : a person of mixed blood; specif.: a person of mixed European and American Indian ancestry

mestr-o-na \mēstrō-nā\ n [meth- + estrogen + pregnane (C_21H_{30}) + -ol] (1962) : a synthetic estrogen $C_{21}H_{30}O_2$ used in oral contraceptives

met past and past part of MEET

meta- or **met-** prefix [NL & ML, fr. L or Gk: L, fr. Gk, among, with, after, fr. *meta* among, with; after; akin to *OMI* mid, with, OHG *mitf*] 1 a : occurring later than or in succession to: after (metestrus) b : situated behind or beyond (metencephalon) (metacarpus) c : later or more highly organized or specialized form of (metaxylem) 2 : change; transformation 3 [*metaphysics*] : more comprehensive; transcending (metapsychology) — used with the name of a discipline to designate a new but related discipline designed to deal critically with the original one (metamathematics) 4 a : involving substitution as or characterized by two positions in the benzene ring that are separated by one carbon atom (meta-xylene) b : derived from by loss of water (metaphone, acid)

meta-bol-ic \mē-tə-bōl'ik\ adj (1845) : of, relating to, or based on metabolism — **meta-boli-cally** \mē-tə-bō-lē-kälē\ adv

meta-bol-ism \mē-tə-bōl'izm\ n [ISV, fr. Gk *metabolē* change, fr. *metabolou* to change, fr. *meta-* + *ballein* to throw — more at DEVIL] (1872) 1 a : the sum of the processes in the buildup and destruction of protoplasm; specif.: the chemical changes in living cells by which energy is provided for vital processes and activities and new material is assimilated b : the sum of the processes by which a particular substance is handled in the living body c : the sum of the metabolic activities taking place in a particular environment (the ~ of a lake) ; METAMORPHOSIS 2 —usu. used in combination (holometabolism)

meta-tab-o-lite \mē-tāb'älit\ n (1884) 1 : a product of metabolism 2 : a substance essential to the metabolism of a particular organism or to a particular metabolic process

meta-tab-o-lic \mē-tāb'äl'ik\ vb -lized; -liz-ing vt (1887) : to subject to metabolism ~ vi: to perform metabolism — **meta-tab-o-liz-able** \mē-tāb'äl'iz'ə-bəl\ adj

meta-car-pal \mē-mə-tā'kär-päl\ adj (1739) : of, relating to, or being the metacarpus or a metacarpal

meta-carpal n (1834) : a bone of the part of the hand or forefoot between the carpus and the phalanges that typically contains five more or less elongated bones when all the digits are present

meta-car-pus \mē-mə-tā'kär-püs\ n [NL] (1676) : the part of the hand or forefoot that contains the metacarpals

meta-cen-ter \mē-tā-sən-tər\ n [F *méta-centre*, fr. *méta-* meta- + *centre*] (1794) : the point of intersection of the vertical through the center of buoyancy of a floating body with the vertical through the new center of buoyancy when the body is displaced

meta-cen-tric \mē-tā-sən-trik\ adj (1798) 1 : of or relating to a meta center 2 : having the centromere medially situated so that the two chromosomal arms are of roughly equal length — **metacentric** n

meta-cep-tar-ia \mē-tā-sēp-tār'ē-ə, -kēr'ē-ə\ n [NL] (1928) : a tailless encysted late larva of a digenetic trematode that is usu. the form which is infective for the definitive host — **meta-cep-tar-ial** \mē-tā-sēp-tār'ē-əl\ adj

meta-chro-mat-ic \mē-kro'-māt'ik\ adj (1876) 1 : staining or characterized by staining in a different color or shade from what is typical 2 : having the capacity to stain different elements of a cell or tissue in different colors or shades (<~ stains)

meta-eth-ics \mē-thik'\ n pl but usu sing in constr (1949) : the meanings of ethical terms, the nature of ethical judgments, and types of ethical arguments — **meta-eth-i-cal** \mē-thik'əl\ adj

meta-fic-tion \mē-fik-shən\ n (1978) : fiction which refers to or takes its subject fictional writing and its conventions — **meta-fic-tion-ist** \mē-fik-shə-nist\ n

meta-gal-axy \mē-gäl'äk-sē\ n [ISV] (1970) : the entire system of galaxies; UNIVERSE — **meta-ga-lac-tic** \mē-gäl'äk-tik\ adj

meta-gen-e-sis \mē-jen'ə-sē\ n pl but usu sing in constr (ca. 1864) : alternation of generations in animals; esp: regular alternation of a sexual and an asexual generation — **meta-gen-etic** \mē-jen'ē-tik\ adj

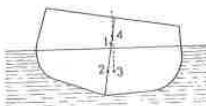
metal \mē-täl\ n, often attrib [ME, fr. OF, fr. L *metallum* mine, metal, fr. Gk *metallon*] (14c) 1 : any of various opaque, fusible, ductile, typically lustrous substances that are good conductors of electricity and heat, form cations by loss of electrons, and yield basic oxides, hydroxides; esp: one that is a chemical element as distinguished from an alloy 2 a : METTELE (ca. 1864) b : the material or substance out of which a person or thing is made 3 : glass in its molten state 4 a : pure type metal b : matter set in metal type 5 : ROAD METAL 6 : HOLLOW METAL

metal vt -aled or -alled; -al-ing or -al-ling (1610) : to cover or dash with metal

meta-lan-gui-age \mē-mə-lāñg'wāj\ n (1936) : a language used to about language

meta-lan-gui-stic \mē-mə-lāñg'wīst'ik\ adj (1944) : of or relating to metalanguage or to metalinguistics

meta-lin-guis-tics \mē-mə-lāñg'wīstiks\ n pl but sing in constr (1949) : a branch of linguistics that deals with the relation between language and cultural factors in a society



metacenter: 1 center of gravity,
2 center of buoyancy, 3 new
center of buoyancy when float-
ing body is displaced, 4 point
of intersection