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III). [Middle English < Late Latin *mellifluus* : Latin *mel*, *mell-*, honey; see *melit-* in App. I + Latin *-fluus*, flowing; see *bhleu-* in App. I.] —*mellif/lu-ous-ly adv.* —*mellif/lu-ous-ness n.*

Mel-ion (mĕl'ɪən), **Andrew William** 1855–1937. American financier and public official who served as US secretary of the treasury (1921–1932) and endowed the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC.

mel-lo-phon (mĕl'ō-fōn') *n.* A brass wind instrument, similar to the French horn, often used in military or marching bands. [MELLO(w) + -PHONE.]

mel-low (mĕl'ō) *adj.* —*er, -est* **1a.** Soft, sweet, juicy, and full-flavored because of ripeness: *a mellow fruit*. **b.** Suggesting softness or sweetness: "The mellow air brought in the feel of imminent autumn" (Thomas Hardy). **2a.** Flavorful and mild or smooth, as from being properly matured: *a mellow wine*. **b.** Soft and pleasant; not harsh: *a mellow voice*; *mellow light*. **3.** Gentle and understanding, especially from being mature or experienced: "She had seen him as a survival of a leisurely and tolerant age, a mellow man" (Elisabeth Ogilvie). **4.** Relaxed and unhurried; easygoing: *a mellow friend*; *a mellow conversation*. **5.** Slang Slightly and pleasantly intoxicated. **6.** Moist, rich, soft, and loamy. Used of soil. *tr. & intr. v.* —*lowed, -low-ing, -lows* To make or become mellow.

—*phrasal verb: mellow out* Slang To become genial and pleasant; relax: "The cowboy mellowed out when they read him a sweet letter from his wife" (Bobbie Ann Mason). [Middle English *melwe*, perhaps < *melowe*, oblique case of *mele*, ground grain, meal; see MEAL¹.] —*mel/low-ly adv.* —*mel/low-ness n.*

me-lo-de-on (mə-lō'dē-ən) *n.* A small harmonium. [Probably alteration of *melodium* < MELODY.]

me-lod-ic (mə-lōd'ik) *adj.* Of, relating to, or containing melody. —*me-lod/i-cal-ly adv.*

me-lo-di-ous (mə-lō'dē-əs) *adj.* **1.** Of, relating to, or containing a pleasing succession of sounds; tuneful. **2.** Agreeable to hear: *a melodious voice*; *the melodious song of a bird*. —*me-lod/i-ous-ly adv.* —*me-lod/i-ous-ness n.*

mel-o-dize (mĕl'ō-dīz') *v.* —*dized, -diz-ing, -diz-es* —*tr.* **1.** To write a melody for (a song lyric). **2.** To make melodious. —*intr.* To compose a melody. —*mel/o-diz'er, mel/o-dist n.*

mel-o-dra-ma (mĕl'ō-drā'mə, -drām'ə) *n.* **1a.** A drama, such as a play, film, or television program, characterized by exaggerated emotions, stereotypical characters, and interpersonal conflicts. **b.** The dramatic genre characterized by this treatment. **2.** Behavior or occurrences having melodramatic characteristics. [Alteration of *melodrame* < French *mélodrame*, spoken drama that includes some musical accompaniment, melodrama : Greek *melos*, song + French *drame*, drama (< Late Latin *drama*; see DRAMA).]

mel-o-dra-mat-ic (mĕl'ō-drā-māt'ik) *adj.* **1.** Having the excitement and emotional appeal of melodrama: "a melodramatic account of two perilous days spent among the planters" (Frank O. Gatell). **2.** Exaggeratedly emotional or sentimental; histrionic: "Accuse me, if you will, of melodramatic embroidery" (Erskine Childers). **3.** Characterized by false pathos and sentiment. —*mel/o-dra-mat/i-cal-ly adv.*

mel-o-dra-mat-ics (mĕl'ō-drā-māt'iks) *n.* **1.** (used with a sing. verb) Melodramatic theatrical performance. **2.** (used with a pl. verb) Exaggeratedly emotional behavior; histrionics.

mel-o-dy (mĕl'ō-dē) *n.*, *pl.* —*dies* **1.** A pleasing succession or arrangement of sounds. **2.** Musical quality: *the melody of verse*. **3.** Music *a.* A rhythmically organized sequence of single tones so related to one another as to make up a particular phrase or idea. **b. Structure with respect to the arrangement of single notes in succession. **c.** The leading part or the air in a composition with accompaniment. **4.** A poem suitable for setting to music or singing. [Middle English *melodie* < Old French < Late Latin *melōdia* < Greek *melōidiā*, singing, choral song : *melos*, tune + *aoidē*, song; see *wed-*² in App. I.]**

mel-oid (mĕl'oid', mĕl'ō-īd) *n.* See *blister beetle*. [*<* New Latin *Meloidae*, family name < *Meloē*, type genus.] —*mel/oid' adj.*

mel-on (mĕl'ən) *n.* **1a.** Any of various vines of the family Cucurbitaceae, especially *Cucumis melo* or *Citrullus lanatus*, widely cultivated for their edible fruit. **b.** The fruit of any of these plants, having a hard rind and juicy flesh. **2.** A fatty structure in the forehead of cetaceans, especially the toothed whales, thought to be used in the production of high-frequency sounds. **3.** *melons* *Vulgar Slang* A woman's breasts. [Middle English < Old French < Late Latin *mēlō*, *mēlōn-*, short for Latin *mēlopepō* < Greek *mēlopepōn* : *mēlon*, apple + *pepōn*, gourd.]

melon dome *n.* A hemispherical dome having a circular plan and a ribbed vault. Also called *parachute dome*, *umbrella dome*.

Me-los (mĕ'lōs) See *Milos*.

Mel-pom-e-ne (mĕl-pōm'ə-nē') *n.* Greek Mythology The Muse of tragedy. [Greek *Melpomenē* < feminine present middle participle of *melpōin*, to sing.]

melt (mĕlt) *v.* —*melt-ed, melt-ing, melts* —*intr.* **1.** To be changed from a solid to a liquid state especially by the application of heat. **2.** To dissolve: *Sugar melts in water*. **3.** To disappear or vanish gradually as if by dissolving: *The crowd melted away after the rally*. **4.** To pass or merge imperceptibly into something else: *Sea melted into sky along the horizon*. **5.** To become softened in feeling: *Our hearts melted at the child's tears*. **6.** *Obsolete* To be overcome or crushed, as by grief, dismay, or fear. —*tr.* **1.** To change (a solid) to a liquid state especially by the application of heat.

tion or in one period. **4.** A usually open sandwich topped with melted cheese: *a tuna melt*. —*phrasal verb: melt down* **1.** To undergo a meltdown. Used of a nuclear reactor. **2.** To undergo a failure or collapse. **3.** To become very angry or upset. [Middle English *melten* < Old English *meltan*; see *mel-*¹ in App. I.] —*melt'a-bil/i-ty n.* —*melt'a-ble adj.* —*melt'er n.* —*melt-ing-ly adv.* —*melt'y adj.*

melt-age (mĕl'tij) *n.* **1.** The substance or quantity of a substance produced by a melting process. **2.** The act or process of melting.

melt-down (mĕlt'daʊn') *n.* **1.** A severe overheating of a nuclear reactor core, resulting in melting of the core and escape of radiation. **2.** A disastrous situation; a failure or collapse: "After several corporate melt-downs, only two reporters remain in [the] bureau" (David Fitzpatrick). **3.** *Informal* An emotional breakdown.

melt-ing point (mĕl'ting) *n.* *Abbr.* **mp** **1.** The temperature at which a solid becomes a liquid at a fixed pressure, usually standard pressure. **2.** The temperature at which a solid and its liquid are in equilibrium, at any fixed pressure.

melting pot *n.* **1.** A container in which a substance is melted. **2.** A place or society in which immigrants of different cultures or races form a single culture.

mel-ton (mĕl'tən) *n.* A heavy woolen cloth used in making outerwear. [After Melton Mowbray, an urban district of central England.]

melt-wa-ter (mĕlt'wō'tər, -wōt'ər) *n.* Water that comes from melting snow or ice.

Mel-ville (mĕl'vil), **Herman** 1819–1891. American writer whose experiences at sea provided the factual basis of the highly allegorical novel *Moby-Dick* (1851). His other works include short stories, such as "Bartleby the Scrivener" (1856), and the novella *Billy Budd* (published posthumously in 1924). —*Mel-vil/le-an* (-vil'ē-ən) *adj.*

Melville Island **1.** An island of northern Australia in the Timor Sea. **2.** An island of northern Canada, in the western Queen Elizabeth Islands north of Victoria Island.

Melville Peninsula A peninsula of central Nunavut, Canada, between Foxe Basin and an arm of the Gulf of Boothia. It is separated from Baffin Island by a narrow strait.

mem (mēm) *n.* The 13th letter of the Hebrew alphabet. See table at **alphabet**. [Hebrew, of Phoenician origin; see *my*² in App. II.]

me-man-tine (mə-män'tēn) *n.* A drug, C₂₀H₂₄N₂O₄, used in its hydrochloride form to treat symptoms of Alzheimer's disease by inhibiting NMDA receptors. [ME(THYL) + (ada)mant(ane), molecule with a diamond-like structure (< Greek *adamās*, *adamant-*, diamond; see ADAMANT) + -INE².]

mem-ber (mēm'bər) *n.* **1.** A distinct part of a whole, especially: **a.** *Linguistics* A syntactic unit of a sentence; a clause. **b.** *Logic* A proposition of a syllogism. **c.** *Mathematics* An element in a set. **2.** A part or an organ of a human or animal body, as: **a.** A limb, such as an arm or a leg. **b.** The penis. **3.** A part of a plant. **4.** One that belongs to a group or organization: *a club member*; *a bank that is a member of the FDIC*. **5.** *Mathematics* The expression on either side of an equality sign. **6.** A structural unit, such as a beam or wall. [Middle English *membre* < Old French < Latin *membrum*.]

mem-ber-ship (mēm'bər-ship') *n.* **1.** The state of being a member. **2.** The total number of members in a group: *an organization with a growing membership*.

mem-brane (mēm'brān') *n.* **1.** *Biology* **a.** A thin, pliable layer of tissue covering surfaces or separating or connecting regions, structures, or organs of a living organism. **b.** A semipermeable layer that bounds a cell or an organelle, typically consisting of lipids and proteins. **2.** A thin, pliable sheet or layer of natural or synthetic material: *the resonating membrane of a kazoo*. **3.** A piece of parchment. **4.** *Chemistry* A thin sheet of natural or synthetic material that is permeable to substances in solution. [Latin *membrāna*, skin < *membrum*, member of the body.] —*mem/brā-nal* (-brā-nəl) *adj.*

membrane bone *n.* A bone that forms directly in membranous connective tissue, as some cranial bones, instead of developing from cartilage.

mem-bran-ous (mēm'brā-nəs) *adj.* **1.** Relating to, made of, or similar to a membrane. **2.** *Medicine* Characterized by the formation of a usually abnormal membrane or a layer similar to a membrane: *membranous nephropathy*.

membranous labyrinth *n.* The fluid-filled membranous sacs of the inner ear that are associated with the senses of hearing and balance.

mem-bril-lo (mēm-brē'yō) *n.*, *pl.* —*los* A firm paste made from quinces and sugar, used in Spanish cuisine and often served with manchego cheese. [Spanish, quince < Latin *melimēla*, (a variety of) sweet apples (perhaps influenced by Spanish *mimbre*, willow) < Greek *mēlimēlon*, apple ripening in summer, apple grafted on quince (*meli*, honey; see *melit-* in App. I + *mēlon*, apple).]

meme (mēm) *n.* A unit of cultural information, such as a cultural practice or idea, that is transmitted verbally or by repeated action from one mind to another. [Shortening (modeled on GENE) of *mimeme* < Greek *mimēma*, something imitated < *mimēisthai*, to imitate; see MIMESIS.]

Me-mel (mā'məl) See *Klaipeda*.

me-men-to (mə-mĕn'tō) *n.*, *pl.* —*tos* or *-toes* A keepsake. [Middle English, commemoration of the living or the dead in the Canon of the Mass < Latin *mementō*, imperative of *meminisse*, to remember; see



Herman Melville
c. 1870 portrait by
Joseph Oriel Eaton
(1829–1875)

ā	pat	oi	boy
ā	pay	ou	out
ār	care	ōō	took
ā	father	ōōr	lure
ē	pet	ōō	boot
ē	be	ū	cut
i	pit	ūr	urge
i	bite	th	thin
ir	pier	th	this
ō	pot	zh	vision
ō	toe	ə	about,