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RANDOM HOUSE UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY

Second Edition

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*Dedicated to the memory of
Jess Stein*

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outer or upper side of a fabric; right side. **16.** the acting, striking, or working surface of an implement, tool, etc. **17. Geom.** any of the bounding surfaces of a solid figure: *a cube has six faces.* **18.** Also called **working face.** Mining, the front or end of a drift or excavation, where the material is being or was last mined. **19. Print.** a. the working surface of a type, of a plate, etc. See **diag.** under **type.** b. Also called **typeface.** any design of type, including a full range of characters, as letters, numbers, and marks of punctuation, in all sizes: *Caslon is one of the most popular faces.* See table under **typeface.** c. Also called **typeface.** the general style or appearance of type: *broad or narrow face.* **20. Naut., Aeron.** the rear or after side of a propeller blade (opposed to *back*). **21. Fort.** either of the two outer sides that form the salient angle of a bastion or the like. See **diag.** under **bastion.** **22. Crystall.** any of the plane surfaces of a crystal. **23. Electronics.** faceplate (def. 3). **24. Archaic.** sight; presence: *to flee from the face of the enemy.* **25. face to face, a. facing** or opposite one another: *We sat face to face at the table.* b. in an open, personal meeting or confrontation: *The leaders spoke face to face about a reduction in nuclear arms.* **26. face to face with,** in close proximity to; narrowly escaping; confronting: *face to face with death.* **27. fly in the face of.** See **fly** (def. 21). **28. get out of someone's face** (usually used imperatively) a. *Southern U.S.* go away; leave. b. *Slang.* to stop bothering or annoying someone. **29. in the face of, a.** in spite of; notwithstanding: *She persevered in the face of many obstacles.* b. when confronted with: *They were steadfast in the face of disaster.* **30. lose face,** to suffer disgrace, humiliation, or embarrassment: *It was impossible to apologize publicly without losing face.* **31. make a face,** to grimace, as in distaste or contempt; contort one's face in order to convey a feeling or to amuse another: *She made a face when she was told the work wasn't finished.* The children made me laugh by making faces. **32. on the face of it,** outward appearances; superficially; seemingly: *On the face of it, there was no hope for a comeback.* **33. put on a bold face,** to give the appearance of confidence or assurance: *Everyone knew that he had been fired, even though he put on a bold face.* Also, **put a bold face on.** **34. save face,** to avoid disgrace, humiliation, or embarrassment: *She tried to save face by saying that the bill had never arrived.* **35. set one's face against,** to disapprove strongly of; oppose: *My parents have set their face against my becoming an actress.* **36. show one's face,** to make an appearance; be seen: *I would be ashamed to show my face in such an outlandish outfit. Just show your face at the party and then you can leave.* **37. to one's face,** in one's presence; brazenly; directly: *Tell him to his face that he's a liar!* —**v.t.** **38.** to look toward or in the direction of: *to face the light.* **39.** to have the front toward or permit a view of: *The building faces Fifth Avenue. The bedroom faces the park.* **40.** to confront directly: *to be faced with a problem; to face the future confidently.* **41.** to confront courageously, boldly, or impudently (usually *fol.* by *down* or *out*): *He could always face down his detractors.* **42.** to oppose or to meet defiantly: *to face fearful odds; Army faces Navy in today's football game.* **43.** to cover or partly cover with a different material in front: *They faced the old wooden house with brick.* **44.** to finish the edge of a garment with facing. **45.** to turn the face of (a playing card) upwards. **46.** to dress or smooth the surface of (a stone or the like). **47.** to cause (soldiers) to turn to the right, left, or in the opposite direction. **48. Ice Hockey.** (of a referee) to put (the puck) in play by dropping it between two opposing players each having his or her stick on the ice and facing the goal of the opponent. —**v.i.** **49.** to turn or be turned (often *fol.* by *to* or *toward*): *She faced toward the sea.* **50.** to be placed with the front in a certain direction (often *fol.* by *on*, *to*, or *toward*): *The house faces on the street. The barn faces south.* **51.** to turn to the left, right, or in the opposite direction: *Left face!* **52. Ice Hockey.** to face the puck (often *fol.* by *off*). **53. face down,** to confront boldly or intimidate (an opponent, critic, etc.). **54. face off, Ice Hockey.** to start a game or period with a face-off. **55. face the music.** See **music** (def. 9). **56. face up to, a.** to acknowledge; admit: *to face up to the facts.* b. to meet courageously; confront: *He refused to face up to his problems.* [1250-1300; (n.) ME < AF, OF < VL **facia*, for L *facies* FACIES; (v.) late ME *facen*, deriv. of the n.] —**face/a-ble, adj.** —**Syn.** 1. FACE, COUNTENANCE, VISAGE refer to the front of the (usually human) head. THE FACE is the combination of the features: *a face with broad cheekbones.* COUNTENANCE, a more formal word, denotes the face as it is affected by or reveals the state of mind, and hence often signifies the look or expression on the face: *a thoughtful countenance.* VISAGE, still more formal, refers to the face as seen in a certain aspect, esp. as revealing seriousness or severity: *a stern visage.* 2. appearance, aspect, mien. 7. exterior. 14. façade. 43. veneer.

face/ an'gle, *Geom.* the angle formed by two successive edges of a polyhedron. [1910-15]

face/ bow/ (b6), *Dentistry.* a device for determining the relationship of the maxillae to the mandibular joint. Also, **face/bow/**. [1935-40]

face/ card/, the king, queen, or jack of playing cards. [1665-75]

face-centered (fäs'sen'terd), *adj. Crystall.* (of a crystal structure) having lattice points on the faces of the

number of faces (usually used in combination): *a sweet-faced child; the two-faced god.* [1490-1500; FACE + -ED³]

face-down (adv. fäs'doun/; n. fäs'doun/), *adv.* **1.** with the face or the front or upper surface downward: *He was lying facedown on the floor. Deal the cards facedown on the table.* —**n.** **2.** Also, **face/-down/**. Informal. a direct confrontation; showdown. [1930-35; (def. 1) FACE + DOWN⁴; (def. 2) n. use of v. phrase *face down*]

face/ gear/, *Mach.* a disklike gear having teeth cut on the face more or less radially and engaging with a spur or helical pinion, the axis of which is at right angles to it.

face-hard-en (fäs'här'dn), *v.t.* to harden the surface of (metal), as by chilling or casehardening. [1895-1900]

face-less (fäs'lis), *adj.* **1.** without a face: *a faceless apparition.* **2.** lacking personal distinction or identity: *a faceless mob.* **3.** unidentified or unidentifiable; concealing one's identity: *a faceless kidnapper.* [1560-70; FACE + -LESS] —**face/less-ness, n.**

face-lift (fäs'lift/), *n.* **1.** Also, **face/ lift/ing, face/ lift/ing.** plastic surgery on the face for elevating sagging tissues and eliminating wrinkles and other signs of age; rhytidectomy. **2.** a renovation or restyling, as of a room or building, intended to give an attractive, more up-to-date appearance. —**v.t.** **3.** to perform a face-lift upon. **4.** to renovate or restyle in order to give a fresher, more modern appearance: *Our old offices have been face-lifted with new furniture.* Also, **face/ lift/**. [1920-25, Amer.]

face/ mask/, **1.** Sports. the protective equipment, usually made of steel or plastic, that guards the face, as the steel cage worn by a baseball catcher or the molded plastic covering worn by a hockey goalkeeper. **2.** any of various similar devices to shield the face, sometimes attached to or forming part of a helmet, as that worn by workers engaged in a hazardous activity. Also, **face/ mask/**. [1905-10; FACE + MASK]

face-nail (fäs'näl/), *v.t.* to secure with nails driven perpendicular to the surface. Cf. **toonail** (def. 4).

face-off (fäs'of/, -of/), *n. Ice Hockey.* **1.** the act of facing the puck, as at the start of a game. **2.** an open confrontation. [1895-1900; n. use of v. phrase *face off*]

face-plate (fäs'plät/), *n.* **1.** (on a lathe) a perforated plate, mounted on the live spindle, to which the work is attached. **2.** the part of a protective headpiece, as a diver's or astronaut's helmet, that covers the upper portion of the face, often of transparent material and sometimes movable. **3.** Also called **face.** Electronics. the glass front of a cathode ray tube upon which the image is displayed. **4.** a protective plate, as one surrounding an electric outlet or light switch. Cf. **switch plate**. [1835-45; FACE + PLATE¹]

face/ pow/der, a cosmetic powder used to give a mat finish to the face. [1855-60]

face-er (fäs'ser/), *n.* **1.** a person or thing that faces. **2.** Informal. a blow in the face. **3. Brit. Informal.** an unexpected major difficulty, dilemma, or defeat. [1505-15; FACE + -ER¹]

face-sav-er (fäs'säv'er), *n.* something that saves one's prestige or dignity: *Allow him the face-saver of resigning instead of being fired.* [1940-45] —**face/-sav/ing, n., adj.**

face-~~et~~ (fäs'it), *n., v., -~~et~~-ed, -~~et~~-ing or (esp. Brit.) -~~et~~-ted, -~~et~~-ting.* —**n.** **1.** one of the small, polished plane surfaces of a cut gem. **2.** a similar surface cut on a fragment of rock by the action of water, windblown sand, etc. **3.** aspect; phase: *They carefully examined every facet of the argument.* **4. Archit.** any of the faces of a column cut in a polygonal form. **5. Zool.** one of the corneal lenses of a compound arthropod eye. **6. Anat.** a small, smooth, flat area on a hard surface, esp. on a bone. **7. Dentistry.** a small, highly burnished area, usually on the enamel surface of a tooth, produced by abrasion between opposing teeth in chewing. —**v.t.** **8.** to cut facets on. [1615-25; < F *facette* little face. See FACE, -ER]

face-cete (fäs'set/), *adj. Archaic.* facetious. [1595-1605; < L *facētus* clever, witty] —**face-cete/ly, adv.** —**face-cete/ness, n.**

face-ti-ae (fäs'shē'ē/), *n.pl.* amusing or witty remarks or writings. [1520-30; < L, pl. of *facētia* something witty. See FACETE, -IA]

face/ time/, **1.** a brief appearance on television. **2.** a brief face-to-face meeting, esp. with someone important. [1975-80]

face-tious (fäs'shēs), *adj.* **1.** not meant to be taken seriously or literally: *a facetious remark.* **2.** amusing; humorous. **3.** lacking serious intent; concerned with something nonessential, amusing, or frivolous: *a facetious person.* [1585-95; FACETE + -IOUS; see FACETIAE] —**face/-tiously, adv.** —**face/-tious-ness, n.** —**Syn.** 2. See **humorous.**

fac/et joint/, *Anat.* any of the four projections that link one vertebra of the spine to an adjacent vertebra.

face-to-face (fäs'tō'fäs/), *adj.* **1.** with the fronts or faces toward each other. **2.** involving close contact or direct opposition: *a face-to-face confrontation.* [1300-50; ME]

face/ tow/el, a small towel for the face. [1920-25]

face-up (fäs'up/), *adv.* with the face or the front or upper surface upward: *Place the cards faceup on the table.* [1960-65; FACE + UP]

fa/cial an'gle, *Craniom.* the angle formed by a line from nasion to prosthion at its intersection with the plane of the Frankfort horizontal. [1815-25]

fac/ial in/dex, *Craniom.* the ratio of the breadth of a face to its height. [1885-90]

fa/cial nerve/, *Anat.* either one of the seventh pair of cranial nerves composed of motor fibers that control muscles of the face except those used in chewing. [1810-20]

fa/cial neural/gia, *Pathol.* See **tic douloureux.**

fa/cial tis/sue, a soft, disposable paper tissue esp. for cleansing the face or for use as a handkerchief. [1925-30]

fa-ci-es (fäs'shē'ez/, -shēz/), *n., pl. fa-ci-es.* **1.** general appearance, as of an animal or vegetable group. **2. Geol.** the appearance and characteristics of a sedimentary deposit, esp. as they reflect the conditions and environment of deposition and serve to distinguish the deposit from contiguous deposits. Cf. **metamorphic facies.** **3. Med.** a facial expression characteristic of a disease or pathological condition. **4. Archaeol.** a distinctive phase of a prehistoric cultural tradition. [1350-1400, for an earlier sense; ME < L *form, figure, appearance, face, akin to facere* to make]

fac-ile (fäs'il or, esp. Brit., -il), *adj.* **1.** moving, acting, working, proceeding, etc., with ease, sometimes with superficiality: *facile fingers; a facile mind.* **2.** easily done, performed, used, etc.: *a facile victory; a facile method.* **3.** easy or unconstrained, as manners or persons. **4.** affable, agreeable, or complaisant; easily influenced: *a facile temperament; facile people.* [1475-85; < L *facilis* that can be done, easy, equiv. to *fac(ere)* to do, make + -ilis -ILE] —**fac-ile/ly, adv.** —**fac/-ile-ness, n.** —**Syn.** 1. smooth, flowing, fluent; glib. **2.** superficial. **3.** bland, suave; urbane.

fa-cile prin-ceps (fäs'ki'le' pring'keps; Eng. fäs'ale' prin'seps), *Latin.* easily the first or best.

fa-cilis de-scen-sus A-ver-no (fäs'ki'lis des'ken'sōōs ä'ver'nō; Eng. fäs'ə'lis di'sen'səs ə'vür'nō), *Latin.* (the) descent to hell is easy; it is easy to take the downward path. Vergil, *Aeneid*, 6:126.

fac-ili-tate (fäs'il'i'tät/), *v.t., -tated, -tating.* **1.** to make easier or less difficult; help forward (an action, a process, etc.): *Careful planning facilitates any kind of work.* **2.** to assist the progress of (a person). [1605-15; FACILIT(V) + -ATE¹] —**fac-ili/ta-tive, adj.**

fac-ili-ta-tion (fäs'il'i'tā'shen/), *n.* **1.** the act or process of facilitating. **2. Physiol.** the lowering of resistance in a neural pathway to an impulse, resulting from previous or simultaneous stimulation. [1610-20; FACILITATE + -ION]

fac-ili-ta-tor (fäs'il'i'tā'tar/), *n.* **1.** a person or thing that facilitates. **2.** a person responsible for leading or coordinating the work of a group, as one who leads a group discussion: *Each committee will meet with its facilitator.* [1815-25; FACILITATE + -OR²]

fac-ili-ty (fäs'il'i'tē/), *n., pl. -ties.* **1.** Often, **facilities.** a. something designed, built, installed, etc., to serve a specific function affording a convenience or service: *transportation facilities; educational facilities; a new research facility.* b. something that permits the easier performance of an action, course of conduct, etc.: *to provide someone with every facility for accomplishing a task; to lack facilities for handling bulk mail.* **2.** readiness or ease due to skill, aptitude, or practice; dexterity: *to compose with great facility.* **3.** ready compliance: *Her facility in organizing and directing made her an excellent supervisor.* **4.** an easy-flowing manner: *facility of style.* **5.** the quality of being easily or conveniently done or performed. **6.** Often, **facilities.** Informal. a rest room, esp. one for use by the public, as in a theater or restaurant. **7.** freedom from difficulty, controversy, misunderstanding, etc.: *facility of understanding.* [1375-1425; late ME *facilitie* (< MF) < L *facilitas*. See FACILE, -ITY]

fac-ing (fäs'ing/), *n.* **1.** a covering in front, for ornament, protection, etc., as an outer layer of stone on a brick wall. **2.** a lining applied to the edge of a garment for ornament or strengthening. **3.** material turned outward or inward, as a cuff or hem. **4. facings,** coverings of a different color applied on the collar, cuffs, or other parts of a military coat. [1350-1400; ME; see FACE, -ING¹]

fac'ing tool/, *Metalworking.* a lathe tool for smoothing a plane surface at right angles to the axis of rotation. [1880-85]

fa-çon (fä'sôn/), *n., pl. -çons* (-sôn/). *French.* **1.** a fashion; manner; style. **2.** workmanship; make. [1795-1805]

fa-con-ne (fäs'ə'nä', fäs'ə'nä'/), *adj.* **1.** (of a fabric) having a small and elaborate pattern. —**n.** **2.** a fabric having a faconne pattern or motif. **3.** the small and elaborate pattern on a faconne fabric. [1890-95; < F *façonné*, ptp. of *façonner* to work, FASHION; see -E]

F.A.C.P., Fellow of the American College of Physicians. Also, **FACP**

FACS, **1.** Biol. fluorescence-activated cell sorter: a machine that sorts cells according to whether or not they have been tagged with antibodies carrying a fluorescent dye, separating the cells mechanically in a vibrating nozzle, imparting a positive or negative charge to cells that fluoresce, and then passing the cells through an electric field to deflect them into different containers. **2.**