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fortification encircling a fort, castle, or town. 2. The structures or area protected by an encircling fortification.

encephal- *pref. var. of ENCEPHALO-*

en-ceph-a-la (èn-sèf'ə-lə) *n. pl. of ENCEPHALON.*

en-ceph-al-ic (èn-sə-fäl'ik) *adj.* 1. Of or relating to the brain. 2. Situated inside the cranial cavity.

en-ceph-a-li-tis (èn-sèf'ə-lit'is) *n.* Brain inflammation. —**en-ceph-a-li-tic** (lit'ik) *adj.*

encephalitis le-thar-gi-ca (lə-thär'ji-ka) *n.* [NLat., lethargic encephalitis.] A viral epidemic encephalitis often associated with influenza and characterized by apathy, double vision, and extreme muscular weakness.

encephalo- or **encephal-** *pref.* [NLat. < Gk. (muelos) *enkephalos*, (marrow) in the head: *en-*, in + *kephalē*, head.] Brain <encephalitis> <encephalogram>

en-ceph-a-lo-gram (èn-sèf'ə-lō-grām) *n.* 1. An x-ray picture of the brain taken by encephalography. 2. An electroencephalogram.

en-ceph-a-log-ra-phy (èn-sèf'ə-lō-grā-fē) *n. pl. -phies.* Roentgenography of the brain. —**en-ceph-a-log-raph'i-cal-ly** *adv.*

en-ceph-a-log-raph'ic *adj.* —**en-ceph-a-log-raph'ic-ally** *adv.*

en-ceph-a-lo-ma (èn-sèf'ə-lō-mā) *n. pl. -mas or -ma-ta* (-mə-tā). A brain tumor.

en-ceph-a-lo-my-e-li-tis (èn-sèf'ə-lō-mī'ə-lit'is) *n.* A viral disease causing inflammation of the brain and spinal cord.

en-ceph-a-lon (èn-sèf'ə-lōn) *n. pl. -la* (-lə) [NLat. < Gk. *enkephalon*, neuter of *enkephalos*, in the head. —see ENCEPHALO-] The brain of a vertebrate. —**en-ceph-a-lous** *adj.*

en-ceph-a-lo-pa-thy (èn-sèf'ə-lō-pā-thē) *n. pl. -thies.* A disease of the brain. —**en-ceph-a-lo-path'ic** (-lə-pāth'ik) *adj.*

en-chain (èn-chān) *vt.* -**chained**, -**chaining**, -**chains**. [ME *enchainen* < OFr. *enchâner* : *en-*, in (< Lat. *in-*) + *chaine*, chain < Lat. *catena*.] To fetter or confine with or as if with chains. —**en-chain-ment** *n.*

en-chant (èn-chānt) *vt.* -**chant-ed**, -**chant-ing**, -**chants**. [ME *enchanten* < OFr. *enchanter* < Lat. *incantare* : *in-* against + *cantare*, to sing.] 1. To cast a spell over; BEWITCH. 2. To charm and delight completely. —**en-chant-ment** *n.*

en-chant'er (èn-chān'tar) *n.* 1. One that enchants. 2. a. A sorcerer. b. A magician.

en-chant-ing (èn-chān'ting) *adj.* Capable of enchanting: CHARMING. —**en-chant'ing-ly** *adv.*

en-chant-ress (èn-chān'tris) *n.* 1. a. A woman who practices magic. b. A sorceress. 2. A fascinating woman.

en-chase (èn-chās) *vt.* -**chased**, -**chasing**, -**chases**. [ME, to engrave < OFr. *enchasser*, to set gems : *en-*, in (< Lat. *in-*) + *chasse*, < Lat. *capsa*, box.] 1. To set (e.g., a gem). 2. To set with or as if with gems. 3. To adorn or decorate by inlaying or engraving.

en-chi-la-da (èn-chā-lā'də) *n.* [Mex. Sp. : *en-*, in (< Lat. *in-*) + *chile*, chili pepper < Nahuatl *chilli*.] A tortilla rolled and stuffed usu. with a mixture of meat or cheese and served with a sauce spiced with chili.

en-chi-rid-ion (èn-kī-rid'ē-ōn) *n. pl. -ions or -ia* (-ē-ə) [Gk. *enkheiridion* : *en-*, in + *kheir*, hand + *-idion*, dim. suffix.] A handbook or manual.

-enchyma *suff.* [< PARENCHYMA.] Cellular tissue <chlorenchyma>

en-ci-na (èn-sē'nə) *n.* [Sp., holm oak < LLat. *ilicina* < Lat. *ilex*.] An evergreen oak, *Quercus agrifolia* of southwestern North America, grown as a shade tree.

en-ci-pher (èn-sī'fər) *vt.* -**phered**, -**phering**, -**phers**. ENCODE 1. —**en-ci-pher-er** *n.* —**en-ci-pher-ment** *n.*

en-ci-rcle (èn-sūr'kəl) *vt.* -**cl-ed**, -**cling**, -**cles**. 1. To form a circle around : SURROUND. 2. To move or go around completely : make a circuit of. —**en-ci-rcle-ment** *n.*

en-clasp (èn-klāsp) *vt.* -**cl-asped**, -**cl-asping**, -**cl-asps**. To embrace closely.

en-clave (èn'klāv, òn') *n.* [Fr. < OFr. *enclaver*, to enclose < VLat. **inclavare* : Lat. *in-*, in + Lat. *clavis*, key.] 1. A country or part of a country within the boundaries of another country. 2. A minority group preserving its own distinct culture while living within a larger group <Chinese enclaves in California cities>

en-clit-ic (èn-klit'ik) *n.* [LLat. *encliticus*, being an enclitic < Gk. *enklitikos* < *enklitein*, to lean on : *en-*, in + *klinein*, to lean.] A word or particle that has no independent accent and forms an accentual and sometimes also graphemic unit with the preceding word, e.g., in "Give 'em the business," the particle "em is an enclitic.

en-close (èn-klōz) *vt.* -**closed**, -**closing**, -**close-s**. [ME *enclosen* < OFr. *enclos*, p.part. of *enclore* < Lat. *includere*, to include : *in-*, in + *cludere*, to close.] 1. To surround on all sides. 2. a. To place inside a container. b. To insert in the same envelope or package. 3. To place an enclosure around so as to prevent common use.

en-clo-sure (èn-klō'zhər) *n.* 1. The act of enclosing or state of being enclosed. 2. Something enclosed. 3. Something that encloses.

en-code (èn-kōd) *vt.* -**cod-ed**, -**cod-ing**, -**codes**. 1. To put (a message) into code. 2. Computer Sci. To convert (a character) into an equivalent combination of bits. —**en-cod'er** *n.*

en-com-i-ast (èn-kō'mē-āst', -ast) *n.* [Gk. *enkōmiastēs* < *enkōmiastēs*, to praise < *enkōmion*, encomium.] One who delivers or writes

an encomium : EULOGIST. —**en-com-i-as'tic** (èn-kō'mē-ās'tik), **en-com-i-as'ti-cal** (-ti-kəl) *adj.*

en-com-i-um (èn-kō'mē-əm) *n. pl. -miums or -mia* (-mē-ə) [Lat. *encomium* < Gk. *enkōmion* (*epos*), (speech) praising a victor < *enkōmios*, of the victory procession : *en-*, in + *kōmos*, celebration.]

1. Warm praise. 2. A formal expression of praise : TRIBUTE.

en-com-pass (èn-kūm'pās) *vt.* -**passed**, -**pass-ing**, -**passes**. 1. To form a circle about : SURROUND. 2. To envelop : enclose. 3. To have as an integral part : INCLUDE. 4. To achieve : accomplish. —**en-com-pas-se-ment** *n.*

en-core (òn'kōr', -kōr) *n.* [Fr., again.] 1. An audience's demand for an additional performance. 2. An additional performance in response to audience demand. —*vt.* -**core-d**, -**cor-ing**, -**cores**. To demand an encore of. —*interj.* —Used to demand an additional performance.

en-counter (èn-koun'tər) *n.* [ME *encountre* < OFr. < *encontrer*, to meet < LLat. *incontrare* : Lat. *in-*, in + Lat. *contra*, against.] 1. An unexpected or unplanned meeting. 2. A usu. brief meeting. 3. a. A hostile confrontation. b. An often violent meeting : CLASH. —*vt.* -**ter-ed**, -**ter-ing**, -**ters**. —*vt.* 1. To meet or come upon (someone or something), esp. unexpectedly. 2. To confront in a hostile situation. 3. To be faced with <encounter strong enemy forces> —*vi.* To meet, esp. unexpectedly.

encounter group *n.* A usu. unstructured therapy group in which individuals try to increase their sensitivity and responsiveness, reveal their feelings, and relate to others openly and intimately, as by touching or speaking freely.

en-cour-age (èn-kūr'ij, -kūr) *vt.* -**aged**, -**aging**, -**ages**. [ME *encouragen* < OFr. *encouragier* : *en-* (causative) < Lat. *in-*, in + *corage*, courage < Lat. *cor*, heart.] 1. To inspire with hope, courage, or confidence : HEARTEN. 2. To give support to : FOSTER. 3. To stimulate. —**en-cour-age-ment** (-mənt) *n.* —**en-cour'ager** *n.*

* *syns.* ENCOURAGE, CHEER (up), HEARTEN, NERVE, PERK UP *v.* *core* meaning : to impart strength and confidence to <were encouraged by the doctors' findings> *ant.* discourage

en-cour-aging (èn-kūr'ə-jing, -kūr-) *adj.* Imparting hope or courage. —**en-cour-aging-ly** *adv.*

en-croach (èn-kroč'h) *vi.* -**croch-ed**, -**croch-ing**, -**croch-es**. [ME *encrochen*, to seize illegally < OFr. *encrochier*, to seize : *en-*, in (< Lat. *in-*) + *croc*, hook, of Scand. orig.] 1. To intrude gradually on the rights or possessions of another <road construction encroaching on the city park> 2. To advance beyond proper or prescribed limits. —**en-croach'er** *n.* —**en-croach-ment** *n.*

en-crust (èn-krist) *vt.* -**crust-ed**, -**crust-ing**, -**crusts**. [Prob. Fr. *incruster* < Lat. *incrustare* : *in-* upon + *crusta*, crust.] To cover or surmount with or as if with a crust <a coffee cake encrusted with icing> —**en-crust-a-tion** *n.*

en-cript (èn-kript) *vt.* -**crypt-ed**, -**crypt-ing**, -**crypts**. 1. ENCODE 1. 2. Computer Sci. To scramble (access codes) in order to prevent illicit entry into a system.

en-cryp-tion (èn-krip'shən) *n.* Computer Sci. A process for scrambling access codes to prevent illicit entry into a system.

en-cum-ber (èn-kūm'bər) *vt.* -**ber-ed**, -**ber-ing**, -**bers**. [ME *encumbren* < OFr. *encumbren*, to block up : *en-*, in (< Lat. *in-*) + *combren*, hindrance.] 1. To weigh down unduly. 2. To impede or hinder the action or performance of. 3. To burden, as with legal claims.

en-cum-brance (èn-kūm'brəns) *n.* 1. One that encumbers : ENCUMBRANCE. 2. Law. A lien or claim on property.

en-cum-branc'er (èn-kūm'brəns-ər) *n.* Law. One holding an encumbrance.

-ency *suff.* [Lat. *entia*. —see ENCE-] -ENCE.

en-cy-clic-al (èn-sik'lī-kəl) *adj.* [LLat. *encyclīcus*, circular < Gk. *enkuklios* : *en-*, in + *kuklios*, circle.] Intended for general circulation. —*n.* Rom. Cath. Ch. A papal letter addressed to bishops or hierarchy of a specific country.

en-cy-clo-pae-dia or **en-cy-clo-pae-dia** (èn-sī'klō-pē'dē-ə) [Med. Lat. *encyclopaedia*, general education course < Gk. *enkuklios paideia* < *enkuklios paideia*, general education.] A comprehensive reference work having articles on a broad range of subjects or on numerous aspects of a given field, usu. arranged alphabetically.

en-cy-clo-ped-ic or **en-cy-clo-pae-dic** (èn-sī'klō-pē'dik) *adj.* 1. Of, relating to, or typical of an encyclopedia. 2. Embracing many subjects : COMPREHENSIVE <encyclopedic learning> —**en-cy-clo-ped-ic-ally** *adv.*

en-cy-clo-ped-ism or **en-cy-clo-pae-dism** (èn-sī'klō-pē'diz-əm) *n.* Encyclopedic knowledge : ERUDITION.

en-cy-clo-ped-ist or **en-cy-clo-pae-dist** (èn-sī'klō-pē'dist) *n.* A writer for or compiler of an encyclopedia.

en-cyst (èn-sist) *v.* -**cyst-ed**, -**cyst-ing**, -**cysts**. —*vt.* To enclose in or as if in a cyst. —*vi.* To form or become enclosed in a cyst. —**en-cyst-ment**, **en-cys'ta-tion** *n.*

en-d (ënd) *n.* [ME *ende* < OE.] 1. Either extremity of an object or length. 2. The outside or extreme edge : BOUNDARY. 3. The point at which an act, event, or phenomenon ceases or is completed.

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