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Prefa

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1 The I

2 Some

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4 Book

5 Term

6 Signs

7 Geol

8 Chem

9 Weigh

and F

poke | police

make fun of, jeer at, chaff at, taunt, guy, gibe at, twit, make sport of, laugh at, *collog.* rib, *Brit. collog.* send up.
poke (or **stick**) **one's nose into** pry or dig or probe into, meddle or interfere in, nose around, intrude on.
poke² /pɒk/ *n. dial.* a bag or sack. ▢ **buy a pig in a poke** see **PIG**. [ME f. ONF *poke*, *poque* = OF *poche*: cf. **POUCH**]
poke¹ /pɒkər/ *n.* a stiff metal rod with a handle for stirring an open fire.
poke² /pɒkər/ *n.* a card game in which bluff is used as players bet on the value of their hands. ▢ **poker face** **1** the impassive countenance appropriate to a poker player. **2** a person with this. **poker-faced** having a poker face. [19th c.; orig. unkn.: cf. G *pochen* to brag, *Pochspiel* bragging game]
 ▢ **poker-faced** serious; see also **WOODEN 3b**, **IMPASSIVE 1b**.
pokeweed /pɒkweəd/ *n.* a tall hardy American plant, *Phytolacca americana*, with spikes of cream flowers and purple berries that yield emetics and purgatives. [*poke*, Algonquian word + **WEED**]
pokey /pɒkeɪ/ *n. sl.* prison. [perh. f. **POKY**]
 ▢ see **PRISON n. 1**.
poky /pɒkeɪ/ *adj.* (**pokier**, **pokiest**) **1** (of a room, etc.) small and cramped. **2** slow. ▢ **pokily** *adv.* **pokiness** *n.* [**POKE**¹ (in *collog.* sense 'confine') + -y]
Polack /pɒlək/ -*lakt/ n. sl. offens.* a person of Polish origin. [F *Polaque* and G *Polack* f. Pol. *Polak*]
polar /pə'lɑːr/ *adj.* **1** a of or near a pole of the earth or a celestial body, or of the celestial sphere. **b** (of a species or variety) living in the north polar region. **2** having magnetic polarity. **3 a** (of a molecule) having a positive charge at one end and a negative charge at the other. **b** (of a compound) having electric charges. **4 Geom.** of or relating to a pole. **5** directly opposite in character or tendency. **6 collog.** (esp. of weather) very cold. ▢ **polar bear** a white bear, *Ursus maritimus*, of the Arctic regions. **polar body** a small cell produced from an oocyte during the formation of an ovum, which does not develop further. **polar circle** each of the circles parallel to the equator at a distance of 23° 27' from either pole. **polar coordinates** a system by which a point can be located with reference to two angles. **polar curve** a curve related in a particular way to a given curve and to a fixed point called a *pole*. **polar distance** the angular distance of a point on a sphere from the nearest pole. **polar star** = **POLESTAR**. ▢ **polarily** *adv.* [F *polaire* or mod.L *polaris* (as **POLE**²)]
5 opposite, opposed, antithetical, contrary, contradictory, antipodal. **6** frigid, glacial, freezing, frozen, numbing, wintry, chilling, chilly, *collog.* Siberian, arctic, nippy, perishing; see also **ICY 1**.
polaris /pə'lɑːrɪ/ *comb. form* polar. [mod.L *polaris* (as **POLAR**)]
polarimeter /pə'lɑːrɪmɪtər/ *n.* an instrument used to measure the polarization of light or the effect of a substance on the rotation of the plane of polarized light. ▢ **polarimetric** /-mɛtrɪk/ *adj.* **polarimetry** *n.*
polariscope /pə'lɑːrɪskəʊp/ *n.* = **POLARIMETER**. ▢ **polariscope** /-skəʊpɪk/ *adj.*
polarity /pə'lɑːrɪteɪ/ *n.* (*pl.* -ies) **1** the tendency of a lodestone, magnetized bar, etc., to point with its extremities to the magnetic poles of the earth. **2** the condition of having two poles with contrary qualities. **3** the state of having two opposite tendencies, opinions, etc. **4** the electrical condition of a body (positive or negative). **5** a magnetic attraction toward an object or person.
polarize /pə'lɑːrɪz/ *v.* **1 tr.** restrict the vibrations of (a transverse wave, esp. light) to one direction. **2 tr.** give magnetic or electric polarity to (a substance or body). **3 tr.** reduce the voltage of (an electric cell) by the action of electrolysis products. **4 tr. & intr.** divide into two groups of opposing opinion, etc. ▢ **polarizable** *adj.* **polarization** *n. **polarizer** *n.*
polarography /pə'lɑːrɒgrəfi/ *n. Chem.* the analysis by measurement of current-voltage relationships in electrolysis between mercury electrodes. ▢ **polarographic** /-ərəgrəfɪk/ *adj.*
Polaroid /pə'lɔɪrɔɪd/ *n. propr.* **1** material in thin plastic sheets that produces a high degree of plane polarization in light passing through it. **2 a** a type of camera with internal pro-*

cessing that produces a finished print rapidly after each exposure. **b** a print made with such a camera. **3** (in *pl.*) sunglasses with lenses made from Polaroid. [**POLAR** + -OID]
polder /pɒldər/ *n.* a piece of low-lying land reclaimed from the sea or a river, esp. in the Netherlands. [MDu. *polra*, Du. *polder*]
Pole /pɒl/ *n.* **1** a native or national of Poland. **2** a person of Polish descent. [G f. Pol. *Polanie*, lit. field dwellers f. *pole* field]
pole¹ /pɒl/ *n.* & *v.* • *n.* **1** a long slender rounded piece of wood or metal, esp. with the end placed in the ground as a support, etc. **2** a wooden shaft fitted to the front of a vehicle and attached to the yokes or collars of the draft animals. **3** = **PERCH**¹ **3**. • *v. tr.* **1** provide with poles. **2** push or propel (a small boat) with a pole. ▢ **pole position** the most favorable position at the start of a race (orig. next to the inside boundary fence). **pole vault** (or *Brit.* **jump**) *n.* the sport of vaulting over a high bar with the aid of a long flexible pole held in the hands and giving extra spring. • *v. intr.* take part in this sport. **pole-vaulter** a person who pole vaults. **under bare poles** *Naut.* with no sail set. **up the pole** *Brit. sl.* **1** crazy, eccentric. **2** in difficulty. [OE *pāl* ult. f. L *palus* stake]
 ▢ **1** rod, stick, staff, spar, shaft, mast, upright.
pole² /pɒl/ *n.* **1** (in full **north pole**, **south pole**) a each of the two points in the celestial sphere about which the stars appear to revolve. **b** each of the extremities of the axis of rotation of the earth or another body. **c** see **magnetic pole**. **¶** The spelling is *North Pole* and *South Pole* when used as geographical designations. **2** each of the two opposite points on the surface of a magnet at which magnetic forces are strongest. **3** each of two terminals (positive and negative) of an electric cell or battery, etc. **4** each of two opposed principles or ideas. **5 Geom.** each of two points in which the axis of a circle cuts the surface of a sphere. **6** a fixed point to which others are referred. **7 Biol.** an extremity of the main axis of any spherical or oval organ. ▢ **be poles apart** differ greatly, esp. in nature or opinion. ▢ **poleward** *adj.* **polewards** *adj.* & *adv.* [ME f. L *polus* f. Gk *polos* pivot, axis, sky]
 ▢ **4** extremity, end, limit, extreme, ▢ **poles apart** (very or completely) different, as different as chalk and cheese, worlds apart, at opposite extremes, at opposite ends of the earth; irreconcilable.
poleax /pə'læks/ *n.* & *v.* • *n.* **1** a battleax. **2** a butcher's ax. • *v. tr.* hit or kill with or as if with a poleax. [ME *pol(h)ax*, -*ex* f. MDu. *pol(h)ax*, MLG *pol(h)axe* (as **POLL**, **AX**)]
polecat /pɒlkət/ *n.* **1** *US* a skunk. **2** *Brit.* a small European brownish black fecid flesh-eating mammal, *Mustela putorius*, of the weasel family. [*pole* (unexplained) + **CAT**]
polemic /pə'lɛmɪk/ *n.* & *adj.* • *n.* **1** a controversial discussion. **2** *Polit.* a verbal or written attack, esp. on a political opponent. • *adj.* (also **polemical**) involving dispute; controversial. ▢ **polemically** *adv.* **polemicist** /-mɪsɪst/ *n.* **polemicize** *v. tr.* **polemize** /pə'lɛmɪz/ *v. tr.* [med.L *polemicus* f. Gk *polemikos* f. *polemos* war]
 ▢ *n.* **1** see **DEBATE n. 1**. • *adj.* see **DEBATABLE**.
polemic /pə'lɛmɪks/ *n. pl.* the art or practice of controversial discussion.
polenta /pə'lɛntə, pɒ- / *n.* mush made of cornmeal, etc. [It. f. *pol* = pearl barley]
polestar /pə'lɪstər/ *n.* **1** *Astron.* a star in Ursa Minor now about 1° distant from the celestial north pole. **2 a** a thing or principle serving as a guide. **b** a center of attraction.
 ▢ **1** North star, lodestar. **2** see **GUIDE n. 5**.
police /pə'liːs/ *n.* & *v.* • *n.* **1** (usu. prec. by *the*) the civil force of a government, responsible for maintaining public order. **2** (as *pl.*) the members of a police force (*several hundred police*). **3** a force with similar functions of enforcing regulations (*military police*; *transit police*). • *v. tr.* **1** control (a country or area) by means of police. **2** provide with police. **3** keep order in; control; monitor. ▢ **police constable** see **CONSTABLE**. **police dog** a dog, esp. a German shepherd, used in police work. **police officer** a policeman or policewoman. **police state** a totalitarian country controlled by political police supervising the citizens' activities. **police**

station the office of a **POLICE**¹
 ▢ *n.* **1, 2** the (long arm) boys in blue, *collog.* fuzz, pigs, the Manx officers. • *v.* **1** patrol
CONTROL v. 1, 2, 3 e
 oversee, control, ob
officer officer (of th
 gendarme, lawman,
 finger, jack, *Brit.* (p
sl. cop, shamus, fuzz
 demon, John Hop,
 peeler, *sl. derog.* pig.
policeman /pə'lɪsɪən
pl. -**women**) a memb
 ▢ see **police officer**.
policy¹ /pə'lɪsɪ/ *n.* (*pl.*
 adopted or proposed
 individual, etc. **2** *pru*
cie f. L *politia* f. Gk *po*
city)
 ▢ **1** course, approach,
 action, strategy, tac
 method, system, pr
 (PRUDENT)
policy² /pə'lɪsɪ/ *n.* (*pl.*
 document containing
 of insurance, f. Prov.
dica, f. L *apodixis* f. C
deiknumi show)]
policyholder /pə'lɪsɪh
 insurance policy.
polio /pə'lɪəʊ/ *n.* = **PO**
poliomyelitis /pə'lɪəʊ
 ease that affects the
 cause temporary or p
 gray + *muelos* marrow
Polish /pə'lɪʃ/ *adj.* & *n.*
 of the Poles or their l
 ▢ **Polish notation** *n.*
 out brackets and pun
polish /pə'lɪʃ/ *v.* & *n.*
 smooth or glossy esp.
 refine or improve; ad
 stance used for polishi
 duced by friction. **3**
 refinement or elegan
off 1 finish (esp. food
 up revise or improve
isher *n.* [ME f. OF *is*
 ▢ *v.* **1** shine, brighten
 gloss. **2** (**polished**)
 masterly, virtuosos,
 perfect, impeccable
 graceful, debonair,
 courtly, genteel, cu
 mannered, polite.
 shine, luster, sheen
 brilliance, sparkle,
off 1 dispose of, pu
 consume, wolf (dot
v. **1.** **polish up** ref
 enhance, *formal an*
archaic con, collog.
 (on).
politburo /pə'lɪtɪbʊrəʊ
 icy-making committe
 former USSR. [Rus.
 bureau]
polite /pə'lɪt/ *adj.* (*poli*
 courteous. **2** cultivat
 letters). ▢ **politely** *ad*
 ▢ **1** civil, respectful,

ayed, vagrant, less. **2** isolated, casual, chance, unexpected; usu. irregular line *sh* with red streaks; in or element in a f); **3** a spell or set, etc.; placed on streaks. **b** lighten ked effect. **2** intr. d in a public place n prominent flash n. [OE *stria* pen

e, mark, smear, rein, layer, seam, **2** see VEIN 6. **3** v. **1** stripe, at., Bot., & Zool. dart, hurdle, fly, zoom, colloq.

eakiest **1** full of e streaks of fat and

body of water, esp. of a mass of people ge quantity of some- rent or direction in *gainst the stream*. **4** together as being of ur. flow or move as *as were streaming*. **3** wave in the wind. **4** rit. arrange (school- eam. *Brit.* do as oth- a operation. **stream** between a bower and n of consciousness nscious reactions to **2** a literary style den- d of a character. *stream* f. [Gmc] ety, river, tributary, aterway, channel, *dial.* kill, *No. of* 3, outpouring, rt, surge, fountain, shower, cataract, ion, series, row, e queue. **3** current, see also TREND n. slide, slip, surge, out, well up or out scade, spill, teem, move. **3** float, VE v. **2**.

flag. **2** a long narrow oil that unrolls when L) the aurora borealis anderole, gonfalon.

1 give (a vehicle, etc.) sistance to motion. **2**) simple or more effi- mlined adj.) a having b; aerodynamic b hav- ucture or organization r air currents. **2** (often tc., calculated to cause e; curved,

curvilinear; smooth, flowing, sleek. **b** modernized, up-to-date, modernistic, time-saving, labor-saving, (well-)organized, efficient, automated, well-run, smooth, efficient, automated, simplified.

street /street/ *n.* **1** **a** a public road in a city, town, or village. **b** this with the houses or other buildings on each side. **2** the persons who live or work on a particular street. **3** in the **street 1** in the area outside the houses. **2** (of Stock Ex- change business) done after closing time. **on the streets 1** living by prostitution. **2** homeless. **street Arab** often *offens.* **1** a homeless child. **2** an urchin. **streets ahead** (often foll. by *of*) *Brit. colloq.* much superior (to). **street smarts** social savvy gained from hard experience. **street value** the value of drugs sold illicitly. **take to the streets** gather outdoors in order to protest, etc. **up (or right up) a person's street** esp. *Brit.* see ALLEY. **streeted** *adj.* (also in *comb.*). **street- ward** *adj. & adv.* [OE *stræt* f. LL *strāta* (*via*) paved (way), fem. past part. of *sternere* lay down]

1 thoroughfare, way, road, main road, roadway, avenue, concourse, boulevard, lane, drive, terrace, crescent, cul-de-sac, row, passage, alley, byway, side street, esp. *Brit.* high road. **2** on the streets **2** see HOMELESS *adj.*

streetcar /streetkaar/ *n.* a commuter vehicle that operates on rails in city streets. **1** see TRAM.

streetwalker /streetwawker/ *n.* a prostitute seeking customers in the street. **2** streetwalking *n. & adj.* **1** see PROSTITUTE *n.* **1a.**

streetwise /streetwiz/ *n.* familiar with the ways of modern urban life. **1** see SMART *adj.* **1a.**

strength /strengkth, strenght, strenth/ *n.* **1** the state of being strong; the degree or respect in which a person or thing is strong. **2** **a** a person or thing affording strength or support. **b** an attribute making for strength of character (*patience is your great strength*). **3** the number of persons present or available. **4** a full complement (*below strength*). **5** from strength from a strong position. **from strength to strength** with ever-increasing success. **in strength** in large numbers. **on the strength of** relying on; on the basis of. **the strength of** the essence or main features of. **2** strengthless *adj.* [OE *strengthu* f. Gmc (as STRONG)]

1 power, might, force, mightiness, robustness, toughness, stoutness, sturdiness, brawn, brawniness, muscle, sinew, vigor, energy; durability, reliability, resistance, solidity, stamina, ruggedness, endurance; fortitude, backbone, tenacity, tenaciousness, willpower, perseverance, persistence, resoluteness, resolution, pertinacity, nerve, pluck, determination, gameness, intrepidity, firmness, stability; concentration, intensity, potency; efficacy, persuasiveness, cogency, weight, convincingness, incisiveness, soundness; *colloq.* guts, grit, gutsiness, spunk. **2** **a** see PILLAR **2**. **b** talent, ability, aptitude, endowment, gift, strong point or suit, forte, asset, long suit. **3** on the strength of on the basis of, according to, by or in virtue of. **the strength of** see ESSENCE **1**.

strengthen /strengkthen, strén-/ *v. tr. & intr.* make or be- come stronger. **2** strengthen a person's hand (or hands) encourage a person to vigorous action. **3** strengthen *n.*

1 reinforce, renew, bolster, fortify, toughen, stiffen, support, brace (up), buttress; confirm, consolidate, back up, corroborate, substantiate; step up, increase, intensify, heighten, enhance; encourage, hearten, invigorate, rejuvenate, nourish, energize, vitalize, steel, *colloq.* boost.

strenuous /strenyúúos/ *adj.* **1** requiring or using great effort. **2** energetic or unrelaxing. **3** strenuously *adv.* strenuous- ness *n.* [L *strenuus* brisk]

1 demanding, taxing, tough, arduous, laborious, toilsome, burdensome, tiring, exhausting, grueling, punishing, difficult, hard, uphill. **2** energetic, active, vigorous, enthusiastic, zealous, earnest, dynamic, intense, indefatigable, tireless, unremitting, persistent,

dogged, determined, tenacious, pertinacious, resolute, sincere, eager. **3** strenuously see HARD *adv.* **1.**

strep /strep/ *n. colloq.* = STREPTOCOCCUS. **strep throat** an acute sore throat caused by hemolytic streptococci and characterized by fever and inflammation. [abbr.]

streptococcus /strep'takókös/ *n.* (*pl.* streptococci /-kóksi, -kóki/) any bacterium of the genus *Streptococcus*, usu. occurring in chains, some of which cause infectious diseases. **2** streptococcal *adj.* [Gk *streptos* twisted f. *strepthō* turn + *coccus*]

streptomycin /strep'tamisin/ *n.* an antibiotic produced by the bacterium *Streptomyces griseus*, effective against many disease-producing bacteria. [Gk *streptos* (as STREPTOCOCCUS) + *mukēs* fungus]

stress /stres/ *n. & v.* **1** **a** pressure or tension exerted on a material object. **b** a quantity measuring this. **2** a demand on physical or mental energy. **b** distress caused by this (*suffering from stress*). **3** **a** emphasis (*the stress was on the need for success*). **b** accentuation; emphasis laid on a syllable or word. **c** an accent, esp. the principal one in a word (*the stress is on the first syllable*). **4** *Mech.* force per unit area exerted between contiguous bodies or parts of a body. **5** *v. tr.* **1** lay stress on; emphasize. **2** subject to mechanical or physical or mental stress. **3** lay stress on indicate as important. **4** stressless *adj.* [ME f. DISTRESS, or partly f. OF *estresse* narrowness, oppression, ult. f. L *strictus* STRICT]

1 see PRESSURE *n.* **1a, b, TENSION n. 1. 2** (stress and) strain, burden, anxiety, worry, distress, pain, grief, suffering, anguish, pressure, tenseness, tension. **3** **a** emphasis, importance, weight, force, insistence. **b, c** emphasis, force, forcefulness, accentuation, accent, prominence, *Prosody* ictus. **5** *v. 1* emphasize, accent, accentuate, lay stress or emphasis on, underscore, underline, mark, note, make a point of, bring home, dwell on, insist on, focus on, bring into prominence, spotlight, feature, highlight. **2** strain, put under strain or stress, upset, disturb, burden, worry, distress, pressurize, pressure.

stressful /stres'fúol/ *adj.* causing stress; mentally tiring (*had a stressful day*). **2** stressfully *adv.* stressfulness *n.* **1** see TRYING.

stretch /stretch/ *v. & n.* **1** *v. 1* *tr. & intr.* draw or be drawn or admit of being drawn out into greater length or size. **2 *tr. & intr.* make or become taut. **3 *tr. & intr.* place or lie at full length or spread out (*with a canopy stretched over them*). **4 *tr.* (also *absol.*) **a** extend (an arm, leg, etc.). **b** (often *refl.*) thrust out one's limbs and tighten one's muscles after being relaxed. **5** *intr.* have a specified length or extension; extend (*farmland stretches for many miles*). **6** *tr.* strain or exert extremely or excessively; exaggerate (*stretch the truth*). **7** *intr.* (as *stretched* *adj.*) elongated or extended. **8** *n. 1* a continuous extent or expanse or period (*a stretch of open road*). **2** the act or an instance of stretching; the state of being stretched. **3** (*attrib.*) able to stretch; elastic (*stretch fabric*). **4** *a colloq.* a period of imprisonment. **b** a period of service. **5** the straight side of a racetrack. **6** *Naut.* the distance covered on one tack. **7** at full stretch working to capacity. **at a stretch 1** in one continuous period (*slept for two hours at a stretch*). **2** with much effort. **stretch one's legs** exercise oneself by walking. **stretch marks** marks on the skin resulting from a gain of weight, or on the abdomen after pregnancy. **stretch out 1** *tr.* extend (a hand or foot, etc.). **2** *intr. & tr.* last for a longer period; prolong. **3** *tr.* make (money, etc.) last for a sufficient time. **stretch a point** agree to something not normally allowed. **stretch one's wings** see WING. **2** stretchable *adj.* stretchability /stretchabiliti/ *n.* stretchy *adj.* stretchiness *n.* [OE *strecan* f. WG: cf. STRAIGHT]******

1 *v. 1* distend, lengthen, elongate, widen, broaden, swell,

... / pronunciation • part of speech
 □ phrases, idioms, and compounds
 □ derivatives ■ synonym section
 cross-references appear in SMALL CAPITALS or italics

stretcher | strike

draw or pull out, balloon, inflate, enlarge, expand, extend, increase, dilate, blow up. 2 see TENSE v. 3 see SPREAD v. 1a. 5 extend, reach, continue; span, spread. 6 overtax, overextend, overburden, tax; warp, strain, distort, bend, break; exaggerate, overstate. ● n. 1 extent, reach, span, distance, length, spread, expanse, sweep, range, area, tract, section; see also PERIOD n. 1. 3 (attrib.) see ELASTIC adj. 1, 2. 4 stunt, period, spell, term; colloq. time; tour (of duty), sl. hitch. 5 straight. □ stretch one's legs (take or go for a) walk, (take or get some) exercise. stretch out 1 see REACH v. 1; 2, 2. see PROLONG 1. □ stretchable, stretchy see ELASTIC 1, 2. stretchability, stretchiness see elasticity (ELASTIC).

stretcher /strétʃər/ n. & v. ● n. 1 a framework of two poles with canvas, etc., between, for carrying sick, injured, or dead persons in a lying position. 2 a brick or stone laid with its long side along the face of a wall (cf. HEADER). 3 a board in a boat against which a rower presses the feet. 4 a rod or bar as a tie between chair legs, etc. 5 a wooden frame over which a canvas is stretched ready for painting. 6 archaic sl. an exaggeration or lie. ● v. tr. (often foll. by off) convey (a sick or injured person) on a stretcher. ● n. 1 see LITTER n. 4, 5.

stretcher /strétʃər/ adv. Mus. in quicker time. [It., = narrow]

strew /struː/ v. tr. (past part. strewn or strewed) 1 scatter or spread about over a surface. 2 (usu. foll. by with) spread (a surface) with scattered things. □ strewer n. [OE *stre(o)wian*]

■ scatter, bestrew, sprinkle, spread, litter; disperse, toss, distribute.

stria /striːə/ n. (pl. -ae /striːe/) 1 Anat., Zool., Bot., & Geol. a linear mark on a surface. b a slight ridge, furrow, or score. 2 Archit. a fillet between the flutes of a column. [L. see GROOVE n. 1a.]

striate adj. & v. Anat., Zool., Bot., & Geol. ● adj. /striːt/ (also striated /striːətiəd/) marked with striae. ● v. tr. /striːt/ mark with striae. □ striation /striːəʃən/ n.

■ adj. (striated) see STRIPED. ● v. see STREAK v. 1. □ striation see STRIPE 1.

stricken /striːkən/ adj. 1 affected or overcome with illness or misfortune, etc. (stricken with measles; grief-stricken). 2 leveled with a stricken. 3 (often foll. by from, etc.) Law deleted. □ stricken in years archaic enfeebled by age. [archaic past part. of STRIKE]

■ 1 broken, crushed, demoralized, broken-hearted, grief-stricken; (stricken by or with) struck (down) by, hit by, laid low by or with, affected by or with, afflicted with, racked by or with, overwhelmed by or with, overcome by or with, plagued by or with, tormented by, troubled by, archaic or literary smitten by. □ stricken in years enfeebled, infirm, doddering, doddery, faltering, shaky, frail; see also AGED 2.

strickle /striːkəl/ n. 1 a rod used in strike measure. 2 a whetting tool. [OE *stricel*, rel. to STRIKE]

strict /striːkt/ adj. 1 precisely limited or defined; without exception or deviation (lives in strict seclusion). 2 a (of a person) severe; rigorous in upholding standards of conscience or morality. b requiring complete compliance or exact performance; enforced rigidly (gave strict orders). □ strictness n. [L *strictus* past part. of *stringere* tighten]

■ 1 rigorous, narrow, close, undeviating, confining, constricting, constrictive, rigid, defined, precise, accurate, exact, exacting, stringent, meticulous, compulsive, punctilious, finicky, finical, scrupulous, attentive, conscientious, faithful, literal, thorough, complete, archaic strait. 2 a severe, austere, authoritarian, autocratic, stern, firm, hard, tough, uncompromising, inflexible, cold-blooded, tyrannical, harsh, ruthless; pitiless, unsympathetic b rigid, set, unalterable, invariable, hard-and-fast, tight, binding, stringent. □ strictness see PRECISION 1, severity (SEVERE).

strictly /striːklee/ adv. 1 in a strict manner. 2 (also strictly speaking) applying words in their strict sense (he is, strictly, an absconder). 3 colloq. definitely.

stricture /striːkʃər/ n. 1 (usu. in pl.; often foll. by on, upon) a critical or censorious remark. 2 Med. a morbid narrowing of a canal or duct in the body. □ strictured adj. [ME f. L *stricatura* (as STRICT)]

■ 1 criticism, censure, condemnation. 2 constriction, narrowing.

stride /straɪd/ v. & n. ● v. (past strode /strōd/; past part. stridden /strɪd'n/) 1 intr. & tr. walk with long firm steps. 2 tr. cross with one step. 3 tr. bestride; straddle. ● n. 1 a single long step. b the length of this. 2 a person's gait as determined by the length of stride. 3 (usu. in pl.) progress (has made great strides). 4 a settled rate of progress (get into one's stride; be thrown out of one's stride). 5 (in pl.) sl. Brit. trousers. 6 the distance between the feet parted either laterally or as in walking. □ take in one's stride 1 clear (an obstacle) without changing one's gait to jump. 2 manage without difficulty. □ strider n. [OE *stridan*]

■ v. 1 see WALK v. 1, 2. ● n. 1 see STEP n. 1a, b, 5. 2 see WALK n. 1. 3 (strides) progress, advances, steps.

strident /strɪdnt/ adj. loud and harsh. □ stridency n. stridently adv. [L *stridere* strident- creak]

■ shrill, raucous, harsh, loud, clamorous, noisy, grating, strident, scraping, scratching, scratchy, screeching, grinding, hoarse, rough, guttural, gravelly, rasping, jarring, discordant, inconsonant, unharmonious, unmelodious, unmusical, cacophonous, creaking, creaking.

stridulate /striːdjʌlət/ v. intr. (of insects, esp. the cicada and grasshopper) make a shrill sound by rubbing esp. the legs or wing cases together. □ stridulant adj. stridulation /-ləʃən/ n. [F *striduler* f. L *stridulus* creaking (as STRIDENT)]

strife /straɪf/ n. 1 conflict; struggle between opposed persons or things. 2 Austral. colloq. trouble of any kind. [ME f. OF *estri*: cf. OF *estriore* STRIVE]

■ 1 discord, disharmony, disagreement, difference, conflict, rivalry, competition, contention, dispute, dissension, struggle, squabbling, bickering, arguing, quarreling, animosity, friction, hard feelings, bad feeling(s), bad blood, antagonism, ill will, hatred, enmity, hostility, unfriendliness.

strigil /straɪjəl/ n. 1 Gk & Rom. Antiq. a skin scraper used by bathers after exercise. 2 a structure on the leg of an insect used to clean its antennae, etc. [L *strigilis* f. *stringere* graze]

strigose /straɪgəʊ/ adj. 1 (of leaves, etc.) having short stiff hairs or scales. 2 (of an insect, etc.) streaked, striped, or ridged. [L *striga* swath, furrow]

■ 1 see HAIRY 1.

strike /straɪk/ v. & n. ● v. (past struck /strʌk/; past part. struck or archaic stricken /striːkən/) 1 a tr. subject to an impact. b tr. deliver (a blow) or inflict a blow on. 2 tr. come or bring sharply into contact with (the ship struck a rock). 3 tr. propel or divert with a blow (struck the ball into the pond). 4 intr. (foll. by at) try to hit. 5 tr. cause to penetrate (struck terror into him). 6 tr. ignite (a match) or produce (sparks, etc.) by rubbing. 7 tr. make (a coin) by stamping. 8 tr. produce (a musical note) by striking. 9 a tr. (also absol.) (of a clock) indicate (the time) by the sounding of a chime, etc. b intr. (of time) be indicated in this way. 10 tr. a attack or affect suddenly (was struck with sudden terror). b (of a disease) afflict. 11 tr. cause to become suddenly (was struck dumb). 12 tr. reach or achieve (strike a balance). 13 tr. agree on (a bargain). 14 tr. assume (an attitude) suddenly and dramatically. 15 tr. a discover or come across. b find (oil, etc.) by drilling. c encounter (an unusual thing, etc.). 16 come to the attention of or appear to (it strikes me as silly; an idea suddenly struck me). 17 a intr. (of employees) engage in a strike; cease work as a protest. b tr. act in this way against (an employer). 18 a tr. lower or take down (a flag, tent, stage set, etc.). b intr. signify surrender by striking a flag; surrender. 19 intr. take a specified direction (struck east). 20 tr. a (also absol.) secure a hook in the mouth of (a fish) by jerking the tackle. b (of a fish) snatch at (bait, the hook, etc.) 21 tr. (of a snake) wound with its fangs. 22 intr. (of oysters) attach themselves to a bed. 23 a tr. insert (the cutting of a plant) in soil to take root. b tr. (also absol.) (of

a plant or cut etc., or the m balance) by d rive at (an ave 26 compose (same number instance of str to work until f to participate find or success 5 Baseball a pi failure to hit i the strike zone the first ball i first structure. dustrial, etc., ROOT'. strike burner) burn t come mixed v low; afflict (str effective blow home). strike disease) attack strike it rich strike a light sl. an expressio Brit. have a lu by passing a ro sure that it is e 2 delete (a nar document). str prosperity or su 3 delete (an ite out eastwards); 4 or devise (a pl means of three strike pay an e ion. strike thr one's pen. strik etc.) esp. casual strike upon 1 (of light) illum promptly at a g area between a plate through w a strike. struck adj. [OE *strican*]

■ v. 1 hit, deal a crown, cuff, p hammer, belai buffet, thrash; horsewhip, see or literary smit bop, swipe, sl. NZ sl. sl. sl. shousy direct. 2 hit, c smash or bump dash into, go o 1. 5 instill, im print, stamp, p 10 a seize, bes assail; penetrat CONSUME 3. b a literary smite; s arrive at, attain reach, attain, c confirm. 14 ass on, feign. 15 c come across; ch 16 occur or co with. 17 a walk quit working; B 18 a remove; t down; take or p n. 1a. 2 walkou

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