

The New Oxford American Dictionary

EDITED BY

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combining matrices, vector specific rules to ob-

from Old French, or from *multiplicare* (see

sign, esp. x, used to indicate multiplied by another,

table of the products of 1 to 12.

ˈkɔːrənəri; 'mɛltəplə, kɔːrənəri | ▶n. multiplication: coronary

ˈtɛ | ▶n. (pl. -ies) a large number: a multiplicity of ascents. 2 the multiplicity of

h: from late Latin *multi-* (see MULTIPLEX).

n. a person or thing that

en number (the multiplier). ■ Economics a factor by which some exceeds the resulting investment. ■ a device for measuring the intensity of an electric measurable level.

(-ies, -ied) [trans.] obtain that contains the first number: I asked you to **multi-** [intrans.] we all know how to

ease greatly in number or size I became a landlord my fold | [trans.] cigarette smokers to multiply the risks of (of an animal or other order by reproducing. ■ prop-

from Old French *multiplier*,

v. [often as submodifier] in several contexts: multiply injured patients. 2; 'mɛlti- | ▶adj. 1 having

or directions.

ˈmɛlti- | ▶adj. 1 having 2 or directions. 2; 'mɛlti- | ▶adj. 1 having

latey - several separate v. [trans.] record using multitrack recording: [as adj.] (multitracked) multitracked vocals.

mul•ti•tu•ber•cu•late | 'mɛltit(y)ə'bɜːkyələt | ▶n. a small primitive extinct mammal of a mainly Cretaceous and Paleocene order, distinguished by having molar teeth with several cusps arranged in two or three rows.

•Order Multituberculata, subclass Allotheria. -ORIGIN late 19th cent.: from modern Latin *Multituberculata*, from **MULTI-** 'many' + Latin *tuberculum* 'tubercle.'

mul•ti•tude | 'mɛltə,t(y)əd | ▶n. a large number: a multitude of medical conditions are due to being overweight.

■ (the multitudes) large numbers of people: the multitudes using the roads. ■ (the multitude) a large gathering of people: Father Peter addressed the multitude. ■ (the multitude) the mass of ordinary people without power or influence: placing ultimate political power in the hands of the multitude. ■ archaic the state of being numerous: they would swarm over the river in their multitude.

-PHRASES cover a multitude of sins see COVER.

-ORIGIN Middle English: via Old French from Latin *multitudo*, from *multus* 'many.'

mul•ti•tu•di•nous | 'mɛltə,t(y)ədɒn-əs | ▶adj. very numerous: the tinkling of multitudinous bells from the herd.

■ consisting of or containing many individuals or elements: the multitudinous array of chemical substances that exist in the natural world. ■ poetic/literary (of a body of water) vast.

-DERIVATIVES **mul•ti•tu•di•nous•ly** adv.; **mul•ti•tu•di•nous•ness** n.

-ORIGIN early 17th cent.: from Latin *multitudo* (see **MULTITUDE**) + **-OUS**.

mul•ti•us•er | 'mɛltə'yoozər; 'mɛlti- | ▶adj. [attrib.] (of a computer system) able to be used by a number of people simultaneously.

■ denoting a computer game in which several players interact simultaneously using the Internet or other communications.

mul•ti•va•lent | 'mɛlti'vələnt; 'mɛlti- | ▶adj. 1 having or susceptible to many applications, interpretations, meanings, or values: visually complex and multivalent work.

2 Medicine (of an antigen or antibody) having several sites at which attachment to an antibody or antigen

no... sible mo... quest or war... -ORIGIN late Mu... made with closed lip... mum² v. (mummed) additional masked min... -ORIGIN late Midd... and Middle Low Ge... mum³ n. informal a cu... -ORIGIN abbreviat... mum⁴ n. British ter... -ORIGIN mid 17th... Mum•bai | 'məm,bɪ

BOMBAY. mum•ble | 'məmbəl indistinctly and qui... to hear: [trans.] he m... [with direct speech] "2 [trans.] bite or che... out making much u... n. [usu. in sing.] a q... had replied in a mur... -DERIVATIVES m... bling•ly | 'məmb(ə... -ORIGIN Middle E... mum•ble•ty•peg

type) ▶n. a game... a knife or pointed... continuing until it fail... -ORIGIN early 17t... peg, from mumble i... with toothless gu... game that an unsu... the ground using... mum•bo•jum•bo

jumbo) ▶n. inform... tended to cause c... legal mumbo jumbo... -ORIGIN mid 18t... a supposed Africa... rent sense dates f...

mu•meson | 'myc... Mum•ford | 'mən... cial philosopher... city planning an... volumes (1934-5... City in History (1967).

mum•mer | 'mə...

ity and indignities of pillage

lly and violently: *the army
l off huge quantities of plun-*

er n.

from German *plündern*, 'lit-
goods,' from Middle High
d effects.' Early use of the
to the Thirty Years' War
ian usage; on the outbreak
1642, the word and activity
rces under Prince Rupert.
, with adverbial] jump or dive
ur daughters whooped as they

trollably: *a car swerved to
into a ravine.* ■ embark im-
course of action: *overconfi-
ahead.* ■ suffer a rapid de-
rth-quarter operating profit
p) pitch: *the ship plunged*

ush or thrust quickly: *he
kets.*

so as to immerse it com-
: *with boiling water and then
ter.* ■ (often **be plunged**
o a specified condition or
ne was illuminated, then it
ness. ■ [trans.] sink (a plant
t) in the ground.

ving into water: *we went
e a cold plunge.*

value or amount: *the bank
: profits.*

informal commit oneself to
ch one is nervous.

glish: from Old French
l on Latin *plumbum* 'lead,

in excavated at the foot of
e falling water.

nming pool, typically one
ed to refresh or invigorate

evice consisting of a rub-
ed to clear blocked pipes

anism that works with a
ment.

s or spends money reck-

low-cut neckline on a

[intrans.] play a keyboard
nent, esp. in an unex-

adding an s: *CDs, MiGs*. They may also, esp. if periods
are involved, employ an apostrophe: *D.D.S.'s*. **3** The
plurals of proper names typically end in s or es, never
with an apostrophe: *the Smiths, the Joneses, the Rosses*.
See also **usage** at **APOSTROPHE**¹.

plu·ral·ism |'plʊərə,lɪzəm| ▶n. **1** a condition or sys-
tem in which two or more states, groups, principles,
sources of authority, etc., coexist.

■ a form of society in which the members of minority
groups maintain their independent cultural tradi-
tions. ■ a political theory or system of power-
sharing among a number of political parties. ■ a
theory or system of devolution and autonomy for
individual bodies in preference to monolithic state
control. ■ Philosophy a theory or system that recog-
nizes more than one ultimate principle. Compare
with **MONISM**.

2 the practice of holding more than one office or
church benefice at a time.

-DERIVATIVES **plu·ral·ist** |-list| n. & adj.; **plu·ral·is-
tic** |-listik| adj.; **plu·ral·is·ti·cal·ly** |-listək(ə)lē| adv.

plu·ral·i·ty |plʊə'rælɪtē| ▶n. (pl. -ies) **1** the fact or state
of being plural: *some languages add an extra syllable to
mark plurality*.

■ [in sing.] a large number of people or things: *a plural-
ity of critical approaches*.

2 the number of votes cast for a candidate who re-
ceives more than any other but does not receive an ab-
solute majority: *his winning plurality came from creating
a reform coalition*.

■ the number by which this exceeds the number of
votes cast for the candidate who placed second.

3 chiefly historical another term for **PLURALISM** (sense 2).

-ORIGIN late Middle English: from Old French *plu-
ralite*, from late Latin *pluralitas*, from Latin *pluralis* 're-
lating to more than one' (see **PLURAL**).

USAGE: On the difference between **plurality** and
majority, see **usage** at **MAJORITY**.

plu·ral·ize |'plʊərə,lɪz| ▶v. [trans.] **1** cause to become
more numerous.

■ cause to be made up of several different elements.

2 give a plural form to (a word).

-DERIVATIVES **plu·ral·i·za·tion** |,plʊərəlɪ'zæʃən| n.
pluri- ▶comb. form several: *pluripotent*.

-ORIGIN from Latin *plus*, *plur-* 'more,' *plures* 'several.'
plu·ri·po·tent |,plʊəri'pɒtnt| ▶adj. Biology (of an im-
mature or stem cell) capable of giving rise to several
different cell types.

-ORIGIN 1940s: from **PLURI-** 'several' + Latin *potent-*
'being able' (see **POTENT**¹).

plus |pləs| ▶prep. with the addition of: *two plus four is
six* | *he was awarded the full amount plus interest*.

■ informal together with: *all apartments have a small
kitchen plus private bathroom*.

▶adi **1** [postpositive]

-DERIVATIVES **plush·ly** adv.; **plush·ier**, **plush·iest** adj.

-ORIGIN late 16th cent.: from old
contraction of *peluche*, from Old
pluck,' based on Latin *pilus* 'hair-
ous' dates from the 1920s.

plush velvet ▶n. a kind of plu-
dense nap, resembling velvet.

plus-mi-nus ▶n. [often as adj.] loc-
used as an indication of a player
lated by adding one for each ge-
er's team in even-strength play
the ice, and subtracting one fr
plus sign ▶n. the symbol +, in
positive value.

Plu·tarch |'plʊ,tɑrk| (c.46-c.
and philosopher; Latin n
Plutarchus. He is chiefly know
lection of biographies of prom-
mans.

plu·te·us |'plʊ,tēəs| ▶n. (pl.
planktonic larva of some eel
what triangular with lateral p
-ORIGIN late 19th cent.: from
(with reference to its shape).

Plu·to |'plʊ,tō| **1** Greek Mytho
world. Also called **HADES**.

2 Astronomy the most remote
system, ninth in order from
1930 by Clyde Tombaugh.

Pluto usually orbits beyon
distance of 5,900 million k
its orbit is so eccentric that
the sun than Neptune (i
smaller than earth's moo
km), but it was discovere
satellite (Charon), which
should properly be regard

-ORIGIN via Latin from
the god of the underworld

plu·to·cra·cy |plʊ'tɔkrə-
by the wealthy.

■ a country or society gov-
or ruling class of peopl
their wealth.

-DERIVATIVES **plu·to·**
plu·to·crat·i·cal·ly |,plʊ

-ORIGIN mid 17th cen
from *ploutos* 'wealth' + *kr*

USAGE: See **usage** at **A**

plu·to·crat |'plʊ,tɔkrə-
whose power derives from

plu·ton |'plʊ,tən| ▶n. (i
neous rock.