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THE OXFORD

Essential
Dictionary

AMERICAN EDITION



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THE OXFORD ESSENTIAL DICTIONARY

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paternalism ~ pawl

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limiting freedom and responsibility by well-meaning regulations. **paternalism** /pə'tɜːnəlɪzəm/ *n.* policy of governing or behaving in a paternal way. **paternalist** /pə'tɜːnəlɪst/ *n.* **paternalistic** /pə'tɜːnəlɪstɪk/ *adj.* **paternalistically** *adv.*

paternity /pə'tɜːnɪteɪ/ *n.* 1 fatherhood. 2 one's paternal origin. 3 the source or authorship of a thing.

path /pɑːθ/ *n.* (pl. **paths** /'pɑːθz/) 1 way or track made for or by walking. 2 line along which a person or thing moves (*flight path*). 3 course of action. **pathless** *adj.*

pathetic /pə'tetɪk/ *adj.* 1 arousing pity, sadness, or contempt. 2 *colloq.* miserably inadequate. **pathetically** *adv.*

pathogen /'pæθədʒən/ *n.* agent causing disease. **pathogenic** /-dʒənɪk/ *adj.*

pathological /pə'thɒlədʒɪkəl/ *adj.* 1 of pathology. 2 of or caused by a physical or mental disorder (*a pathological fear of spiders*). **pathologically** *adv.*

pathology /'pæθələdʒi/ *n.* 1 science of bodily diseases. 2 symptoms of a disease. **pathologist** *n.*

pathos /'pæθəs/ *n.* -thaws, -thɒs/ *n.* quality in speech, writing, events, etc., that evokes pity or sadness.

pathway /'pæθweɪ/ *n.* path or its course.

pathy /'pæθi/ *comb. form* forming nouns denoting: 1 curative treatment (*allopathy; homeopathy*). 2 feeling (*telepathy*).

patience /'peɪʃəns/ *n.* perseverance; ability to endure; forbearance.

patient /'peɪʃənt/ *adj.* having or showing patience. *n.* person receiving medical treatment. **patiently** *adv.*

patina /'pætnə/ *n.* (pl. **patinas**) 1 film, usu. green, formed on old bronze. 2 similar film or gloss on other surfaces. **patinated** /'pætnətɪd/ *adj.* **patination** *n.*

patio /'pæʃiə/ *n.* 1 paved usu. roofless area adjoining and belonging to a house. 2 roofless inner court.

patois /'pætwɑː/ *n.* (pl. same, *pronunc. /-wɑːz/*) regional dialect of the common people.

patriarch /'pætrɪərɑːk/ *n.* 1 male head of a family or tribe. 2 *Ecol.* a chief bishop in the Orthodox Church. 3 in the Roman Catholic Church) bishop ranking immediately below the pope. 3 venerable old man. **patriarchal** *adj.* **patriarchally** *adv.*

patriarchate /'pætrɪərɑːkət/ *n.* office, rank, see, or residence of a patriarch.

patriarchy /'pætrɪərɑːki/ *n.* (pl. **chiefs**) system of society, government, etc., ruled by a man or men and with descent through the male line.

patriarchian /'pætrɪərɑːʃən/ *n.* 1 *hist.* member of the ancient Roman nobility. 2 aristocrat. *adj.* aristocratic; well-bred.

patriarchy /'pætrɪərɑːki/ *n.* (pl. **-nies**) property inherited from one's father or ancestor. **patriarchally** *adv.* **patriarchism** *n.*

patriot /'pætrɪət/ *n.* 1 act of walking or travel-

ing around an area in order to protect or supervise it. 2 guards, police, troops, etc., sent out to watch or protect. *v.* (pa-trolled, pa-trol-ling) 1 *tr.* carry out a patrol. 2 *intr.* act as a patrol. **patrol car** police car used in patrolling roads and streets. **patroller** *n.*

patrolman /'pætrɒlmən/ *n.* (pl. **-men**) police officer assigned to or patrolling a specific route.

patron /'pætrɒn/ *n.* (fem. **patroness**) 1 person who gives financial or other support to a person, cause, work of art, etc. 2 habitual customer. **patron saint** protecting or guiding saint of a person, place, etc.

patronage /'pætrɒnɪdʒ/ *n.* 1 patron's or customer's support. 2 a power to appoint others to government jobs. 3 distribution of such jobs.

patronize /'pætrɒnaɪz/ *v.* 1 treat condescendingly. 2 act as a patron toward (a person, cause, artist, etc.); support; encourage. 3 be a customer of. **patronization** *n.* **patronizer** *n.* **patronizing** *adj.* **patronizingly** *adv.*

patronymic /'pætrɒnɪmɪk/ *n.* name derived from the name of a father or ancestor, e.g., Johnson, O'Brien, Ivanovich.

patry /'pætri/ *n.* (pl. **-sies**) person who is deceived, ridiculed, tricked, etc.

pattee /'pætri/ *n.* *intr.* make a rapid succession of taps. *v.* *intr.* rapid succession of taps, short light steps, etc.

pattee /'pætri/ *n.* rapid speech used by a comedian or salesperson. *v.* *intr.* talk glibly or mechanically.

pattem /'pætm/ *n.* 1 decorative design. 2 regular or logical form, order, etc. 3 model or design, e.g., of a garment, from which copies can be made. 4 example of excellence; ideal; model (*a pattern of elegance*). *v.* 1 model (a thing) on a design, etc. 2 decorate with a pattern.

patty /'pæti/ *n.* (pl. **-ties**) small flat cake of food.

paucity /'pɔːsɪteɪ/ *n.* smallness of number or quantity.

paunch /'pɔːnʃ/ *n.* 1 belly or stomach, esp. when protruding. 2 ruminant's first stomach; rumen. **paunchy** *adj.* (**paunchier**, **paunchiest**). **paunchiness** *n.*

pauper /'pɔːpər/ *n.* person without means; beggar. **pauperism** /'rɪzəm/ *n.* **pauperize** *v.* **pauperization** /-rɪzə'ʃən/ *n.*

pause /'pɔːz/ *n.* temporary stop; silence. *v.* *intr.* 1 make a pause; wait. 2 linger over (a word, etc.).

pave /'peɪv/ *v.* *tr.* cover (a street, floor, etc.) with paving, etc. *v.* *tr.* **pave the way for** prepare for. **paver** *n.* **paving** *n.*

pavement /'peɪvmənt/ *n.* paved path, roadway, etc.

pavilion /'peɪvɪljən/ *n.* 1 tent, esp. a large one at a show, fair, etc. 2 building or stand used for entertainments, exhibits, etc. 3 detached building that is part of a connected set of buildings, as at a hospital.

Pavlovian /'peɪvləvɪən/ *adj.* of or relating to I. P. Pavlov or his work, esp. on conditioned reflexes.

paw /'pɔː/ *n.* 1 foot of an animal having claws or nails. 2 *colloq.* person's hand. *v.* 1 *tr.* strike or scrape with a paw or hoof. 2 *intr.* scrape the ground with a paw or hoof. 3 *tr.* *colloq.* fondle awkwardly or indecently.

paw /'pɔː/ *n.* lever with a catch for the teeth of a wheel or bar.

pawn /'pɔːn/ *n.* 1 *Chess* piece of the smallest size and value. 2 person used by others for their own purposes.

pawn /'pɔːn/ *v.* *tr.* 1 deposit an object, esp. with a pawnbroker, as security for money lent. 2 pledge or wager. *v.* *n.* object left as security for money, etc., lent.

pawnbroker /'pɔːnbroʊkər/ *n.* person who lends money at interest on the security of personal property pawned. **pawnbroking** *n.*

Pawnee /'pɔːneɪ/ *n.* 1 a N. American people native to Kansas and Nebraska. 2 member of this people. 3 language of this people.

pawnshop /'pɔːnʃɒp/ *n.* pawnbroker's shop.

pawpaw /'pɔːpɔː/ *n.* (also **pa'paw**) N. American tree with purple flowers and edible fruit.

pay /'peɪ/ *v.* *tr.* (past and past part. **paid** /'paɪd/) 1 (also *absol.*) give (a person, etc.) what is due for services done, goods received, debts incurred, etc. 2 give (a sum) for work done, a debt, etc. 3 a give, bestow, or express. 4 make (a visit). 4 (also *absol.*) be profitable or advantageous. 5 reward or punish. 6 let out (a rope) by slackening it. *v.* *n.* wages. *v.* *adj.* requiring payment of a coin, a set fee, etc., for use. *n.* in the pay of employed by. **pay back** 1 repay. 2 punish or be revenged on. **pay dirt** 1 *Mineral.* ground worth working for. 2 financially promising situation. **pay off** 1 dismiss (workers) with a final payment. 2 *colloq.* yield good results; succeed. 3 pay (a debt) in full. **pay phone** coin-operated telephone. **pay-ee** /'peɪeɪ/ *n.* **payer** *n.*

pay Middle English (in the sense 'pacify'): from Old French *paie* (noun), *payer* (verb), from Latin *pacare* 'appease', from *pax* 'peace'. The notion of 'payment' arose from the sense of 'pacifying' a creditor.

payable /'peɪəbəl/ *adj.* that must or may be paid; due.

payday /'peɪdeɪ/ *n.* day on which salary or wages are paid.

payload /'peɪləʊd/ *n.* 1 part of an aircraft's load from which revenue is derived, as paying passengers. 2 explosive warhead carried by an aircraft or rocket.

paymaster /'peɪmɑːstər/ *n.* official who pays troops, workers, etc.

payment /'peɪmənt/ *n.* 1 act or an instance of paying. 2 amount paid. 3 reward; recompense.

pay-off /'peɪɔːf/ *n.* 1 act of payment. 2 climax. 3 final reckoning. 4 *colloq.* bribe; bribery.

payola /'peɪələ/ *n.* bribe offered in return for unofficial promotion of a product, etc., in the media.

payroll /'peɪrɒl/ *n.* list of employees receiving regular pay.

Pb *Chem.* lead.

PBS *abbr.* Public Broadcasting Service.

PC *abbr.* 1 personal computer. 2 politically correct.

PCB *abbr.* 1 *Computing* printed circuit board. 2 *Chem.* polychlorinated biphenyl, any of several toxic aromatic compounds formed as waste in industrial processes.

PCP *n.* 1 *sl.* illicit hallucinogenic drug, phencyclidine hydrochloride (phenyl cyclohexyl piperidine). 2 pneumocystis carinii pneumonia.

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pawn ~ pearl

per *abbr.* percent.

PD *abbr.* Police Department.

Pd *Chem.* palladium.

pd. *abbr.* paid.

PDT *abbr.* Pacific Daylight Time.

PE *abbr.* physical education.

pea /'peɪ/ *n.* 1 hardy climbing plant, with seeds growing in pods and used for food. 2 its seed.

peace /'piːs/ *n.* 1 a quiet; tranquillity. 2 mental calm; serenity (*peace of mind*). 3 freedom from or the cessation of war. 4 freedom from civil disorder. 5 hold one's peace keep silent. **peace pipe** tobacco pipe smoked as a token of peace among some Native Americans.

peaceable /'piːsəbəl/ *adj.* 1 disposed to peace. 2 tranquil; peaceful. **peaceableness** *n.* **peacefully** *adv.*

peaceful /'piːsɪfəl/ *adj.* 1 characterized by peace; tranquil. 2 not infringing peace. **peacefully** *adv.* **peacefulness** *n.*

peace-maker /'piːsmə'keɪər/ *n.* person who brings about peace. **peace-making** *n.* & *adj.*

peacetime /'piːstɪm/ *n.* period when a country is not at war.

peach /'piːtʃ/ *n.* 1 a round juicy fruit with downy cream or yellow skin flushed with red. 2 tree bearing it. 3 yellowish pink color of. 3 *colloq.* a person or thing of superlative quality. 4 often *offens.* attractive young woman. **peachy** *adj.* (**peachier**, **peachiest**). **peachiness** *n.*

peacock /'piːkɒk/ *n.* male peafowl, having brilliant plumage and an erectile fanlike tail (with eye-like markings).

peafowl /'piːfəʊl/ *n.* peacock or peahen.

peahen /'piːhɛn/ *n.* female peafowl.

peajack-ot /'piːdʒæk'ɒt/ (also **pea'coat**) *n.* sailor's short double-breasted woolen overcoat.

peak /'piːk/ *n.* 1 projecting usu. pointed part, esp.: a the pointed top of a mountain. b a mountain with a peak. c stiff brim at the front of a cap. 2 a highest point. b time of greatest success. *v.* *intr.* reach the highest value, quality, etc. **peaked** *adj.* **peakiness** *n.*

peak /'piːk/ *v.* *intr.* 1 waste away. 2 (as **peak-ed** /'piːkɪd/ *adj.*) pale; sickly.

peal /'piːl/ *n.* 1 a the loud ringing of a bell or bells, esp. a series of changes. 2 set of bells. 3 loud repeated sound, esp. of thunder, laughter, etc. *v.* 1 *intr.* sound forth in a peal. 2 *tr.* utter sonorously. 3 *tr.* ring (bells) in peals.

peanut /'piːnʌt/ *n.* 1 leguminous plant, bearing pods that ripen underground and contain seeds used as food and yielding oil. 2 seed of this plant. 3 (in *pl.*) *colloq.* paltry or trivial thing or amount, esp. of money. **peanut butter** paste of ground roasted peanuts.

pear /'peɪr/ *n.* 1 yellowish or brownish green fleshy fruit, tapering toward the stalk. 2 tree bearing it.

pearl /'peɪrəl/ *n.* 1 a (often *attrib.*) usu. white or bluish gray hard mass formed within the shell of certain oysters highly prized as a gem for its luster (*pearl necklace*). 2 imitation of this. 3 precious thing; finest example. 3 anything resembling a pearl, e.g., a dewdrop, tear, etc. *v.* *intr.* fish for pearl oysters. **pearler** *n.* **pearly** *adj.*