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only dark objects are discernible; also: a blizzard that severely reduces visibility

white pages *n pl* (1952): the section of a telephone directory that lists individuals and businesses alphabetically

white paper *n* (1899) **1**: a government report on any subject; *esp*: a British publication that is usu. less extensive than a blue book **2**: a detailed or authoritative report

white pepper *n* (14c): a pungent condiment that consists of the fruit of an East Indian plant (*Piper nigrum*) ground after the black husk has been removed

white perch *n* (1775) **1**: a silvery anadromous bass (*Morone americana*) chiefly of the coast and coastal streams of the eastern U.S. **2**: FRESHWATER DRUM **3**: WHITE CRAPPIE

white pine *n* (1682) **1** *a*: a tall-growing pine (*Pinus strobus*) of eastern No. America with long needles in clusters of five — called also *eastern white pine*; *b*: any of several trees that resemble the white pine *esp*. in having leaves in bundles of five **2**: the wood of a white pine and *esp*. of the eastern white pine

white-pine blister rust *n* (1911): a destructive disease of white pine caused by a rust fungus (*Cronartium ribicola*) that passes part of its complex life cycle on currant or gooseberry bushes; *also*: this fungus

white potato *n* (ca. 1890): POTATO **2b**

white rice *n* (1923): rice from which the hull and bran have been removed by milling

white room *n* (1961): CLEAN ROOM

White Russian *n* (1850) **1**: BELORUSSIAN **2**: a cocktail made of vodka, coffee liqueur, and cream or milk

white rust *n* (ca. 1848): any of various plant diseases caused by a fungus (genus *Albugo* of the order Peronosporales) and characterized by the presence of masses of white spores that escape through ruptures of the host tissue; *also*: a fungus causing a white rust

white sale *n* (1914): a sale of white goods

white sauce *n* (1723): a sauce consisting essentially of a roux with milk, cream, or stock and seasoning

white sea bass *n* (1884): a large croaker (*Atractoscion nobilis*) of the Pacific coast that is an important sport and food fish

white shark *n* (1674): GREAT WHITE SHARK

white slave *n* (1882): a woman or girl held unwillingly for purposes of commercial prostitution

white slav-er *v*-'sli-vər-*n* (1912): one engaged in white-slave traffic

white slavery *n* (1857): enforced prostitution

white-smith *v*-'hwit-'smith, 'wit-'*n* (14c) **1**: TINSMITH **2**: a worker in iron who finishes or polishes the work

white space *n* (1849): the areas of a page without print or pictures

white spruce *n* (1770) **1**: any of several spruces; *esp*: a widely distributed spruce (*Picea glauca*) of coniferous forests of Canada and the northern U.S. that has short stiff blue-green needles and slender cones **2**: the wood of a white spruce; *esp*: the light pale tough straight-grained wood of the common white spruce (*Picea glauca*) used *esp*. for construction and as a source of paper pulp

white sucker *n* (ca. 1891): a common and widespread edible sucker (*Catostomus commersoni*) of the U.S. and Canada

white supremacy *n* (1945): an advocate of or believer in white supremacy

white supremacy *n* (1867): a doctrine based on a belief in the inherent superiority of the white race over the black race and the correlative necessity for the subordination of blacks to whites in all relationships

white-tail *v*-'hwit-'tāl, 'wit-'*n* (1872): WHITE-TAILED DEER

white-tailed deer *v*-'tāld-'*n* (1849): a No. American deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) with a rather long tail white on the undersurface and the males of which have forward-arching antlers

white-throat *v*-'hwit-'thrōt, 'wit-'*n* (1676): any of several birds with white on the throat: as *a*: an Old World warbler (*Sylvia communis*) with rusty upper parts and largely pale buff underparts *b*: WHITE-THROATED SPARROW

white-throated sparrow *v*-'thrōt-'tād-'*n* (1811): a common brown sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) chiefly of eastern No. America with a black-and-white striped crown and a white patch on the throat

white-tie *adj* (1936): characterized by or requiring the wearing of formal evening clothes consisting of white tie and tailcoat for men and a formal gown for women (*a* ~ dinner) — compare BLACK-TIE

white trash *n sing but pl in constr* (1831) *usu disparaging*: POOR WHITE

white-wall *v*-'hwit-'wōl, 'wit-'*n* (1953): an automobile tire having a white band on the sidewall

white walnut *n* (1743) **1**: BUTTERNUT **1** **2**: the light-colored wood of a butternut

white-wash *v*-'hwit-'wōsh, 'wit-', '-wāsh' *vt* (1591) **1**: to whiten with whitewash **2** *a*: to gloss over or cover up (as vice or crimes) *b*: to exonerate by means of a perfunctory investigation or through biased presentation of data **3**: to hold (an opponent) scoreless in a game or contest — **white-washer** *n*

whitewash *n* (1689) **1**: a liquid composition for whitening a surface: as *a*: a preparation for whitening the skin *b*: a composition (as of lime and water or whiting, size, and water) for whitening structural surfaces **2**: an act or instance of glossing over or of exonerating **3**: a defeat in a contest in which the loser fails to score

white-washing *n* (1663): an act or instance of applying whitewash; *also*: WHITEWASH **3**

white oak: leaves and acorns

white *v*-'wid-'*n* (1663) **1**: a : any of various trees with pale or white wood: as *a*: TULIP TREE **1** *b*: an Australian tree (*Atalaya hemiglauca*) of the soapberry family **2**: the wood of a whitewood; *esp*: TULIPWOOD **1**

whit-ey *v*-'hwi-'tē, 'wi-'*n*, *often cap* (1828) *usu disparaging*: the white man: white society

white zinfandel *n* (1976): a blush wine made from zinfandel grapes

whither *v*-'hwi-'thər, 'wi-'*adv* [ME, fr. OE *hwider*; akin to *L* *quid* who and to OE *hider* hither — more at WHO, HITHER] (bef. 12c) **1**: to what place (~ will they go) **2**: to what situation, position, degree, or end (~ will this abuse drive him)

whither conj (bef. 12c) **1** *a*: to what place (knew ~ to go — Daniel Defoe) *b*: to what situation, position, degree, or end **2** *a*: to the place at, in, or to which; *b*: to which place **3**: to whatever place

whither-so-ever *v*-'hwi-'thər-'sə-'we-'vər, 'wi-'*conj* (14c): to whatever place (will go ~ you lead)

whither-ward *v*-'hwi-'thər-'wərd, 'wi-'*adv* (13c) *archaic*: toward what or which place

whit-ing *v*-'hwi-'tɪŋ, 'wi-'*n* [ME, fr. MD *witinc*, fr. *wit* white; akin to OE *hwit* white] (15c): any of various marine food fishes: as *a*: a common European fish (*Merlangius merlangus*) of the cod family; *b*: SILVER HAKE

whiting *n* [ME, fr. gerund of *whiten* to white] (15c): calcium carbonate ground into fine powder, washed, and used *esp*. as a pigment and extender, in putty, and in rubber compounding and paper coating

whit-low *v*-'hwi-'lō, 'wi-'*n* [ME *whitflawe*, *whitflowe*, *whitlowe*] (14c): a deep usu. suppurative inflammation of the finger or toe *esp*. near the end or around the nail — called also *felon*

Whit-mon-day *v*-'hwi-'mən-'dē, 'wit-', '-mən-'*n* [Whitsunday + Monday] (1557): the day after Whitsunday observed as a legal holiday in England, Wales, and Ireland

Whit-sun *v*-'hwi-'sən, 'wit-'*adj* [ME *Whitson*, fr. *Whitsunday*] (14c): of, relating to, or observed on Whitsunday or at Whitsuntide

Whit-sun-day *v*-'sən-'dē, '-sən-'dā-'*n* [ME *Whitsunday*, fr. OE *hwita sunnandæg*, lit., white Sunday; prob. fr. the custom of wearing white robes by those newly baptized at this season] (12c): PENTECOST **2**

Whit-sun-tide *v*-'sən-'tɪd-'*n* (13c): the week beginning with Whitsunday and *esp*. the first three days of this week

whit-tle *v*-'hwi-'tl-, 'wi-'*n* [ME *whittel*, alter. of *thwitel*, fr. *thwiten* to whittle, fr. OE *thwitan*; akin to ON *thveita* to hew] (15c) *archaic*: a large knife

whittle *vb* **whit-tled**; **whit-ting** *v*-'hwi-'tɪŋ, 'wit-', 'hwi-'tɪŋ, 'wi-'*v* (1552) **1** *a*: to pare or cut off chips from the surface of (wood) with a knife *b*: to shape or form by so paring or cutting **2**: to reduce, remove, or destroy gradually as if by cutting off bits with a knife: PARE (~ down expenses) ~ *vi* **1**: to cut or shape something (as wood) by or as if by paring it with a knife **2**: to wear oneself or another out with fretting — **whit-tiler** *v*-'hwi-'tɪ-lər, 'wi-'*n*, 'wi-'*n*, 'wi-'*n* **whit-ting** *n* (1854) **1**: the act or art of whittling **2**: a piece cut away in whittling

whit-tret *v*-'hwi-'trət, 'wi-'*n* [ME *whitrat*, fr. *white*, *whit* white + *rat* rat] (15c) *chiefly Scot*: WEASEL

whity or whit-ey *v*-'hwi-'tē, 'wi-'*adj* (1593): somewhat white: WHITISH — *usu.* used in combination

whizz or whizz *v*-'hwiz, 'wɪz' *vb* **whizzed**; **whiz-zing** [imit.] *vi* (1547) **1**: to hum, whir, or hiss like a speeding object (as an arrow or ball) passing through air **2**: to fly or move swiftly *esp.* with a whiz ~ *vt*: to cause to whiz; *vi*: to rotate very rapidly

whizz or whizz *n*, *pl* **whiz-zes** (1620) **1**: a hissing, buzzing, or whirring sound **2**: a movement or passage of something accompanied by a whizzing sound

whizz *n*, *pl* **whiz-zes** [prob. by shortening & alter.] (1914): WIZARD **3** (*a* ~ at math)

whizz-bang *also* **whizz-bang** *v*-'hwiz-'bæg, 'wɪz-, '-bæg' *n* (1915): one that is conspicuous for noise, speed, excellence, or startling effect — **whizz-bang** *adj*

whiz kid *also* **whizz kid** *n* [whiz] (ca. 1942): a person who is unusually intelligent, clever, or successful *esp.* at an early age

whiz-zer *v*-'hwi-'zər, 'wi-'*n* (1881): one that whizzes; *esp*: a centrifugal machine for drying something (as grain, sugar, or nitrated cotton)

who *v*-'hū, 'ū' *pron* [ME, fr. OE *hwā*; akin to OHG *hwer*, interrog. *pron.* who, *L quis*, Gk *tis*, *L qui*, rel. *pron.*, who] (bef. 12c) **1**: what or which person or persons — used as an interrogative (~ was elected?) (<find out ~ they are); used by speakers on all educational levels and by many reputable writers, though disapproved by some grammarians, as the object of a verb or a following preposition (~ did I see but a Spanish lady — Padraic Colum) (do not know ~ the message is from — G. K. Chesterton) **2**: the person or persons that: WHOEVER **3** — used as a function word to introduce a relative clause; used *esp.* in reference to persons (my father, who was a lawyer) but also in reference to groups (a generation ~ had known nothing but war — R. B. West) or to animals (dogs ~ ... fawn all over tramps — Nigel Balchin) or to inanimate objects (*esp.* with the implication that the reference is really to a person (earlier sources ~ maintain a Davidic ancestry — F. M. Cross); used by speakers on all educational levels and by many reputable writers, though disapproved by some grammarians, as the object of a verb or a following preposition (*a* character ~ we are meant to pity — *Times Lit. Supp.*) usage see WHOM, THAT — as *who* *archaic*: as one that: as if someone — as *who should say* *archaic*: so to speak — *who is who* or *who's who* or *who was who*: the identity of or the noteworthy facts about each of a number of persons

— sound — A. E. Housman) *b*: physically sound and healthy: tall or emotionally sound **2**: elements: COMPLETE, UNMODIFIED (~ the total sum or undiminished *etc.*) *b*: each or all of the (took part in ~ constituting an undivided unit) *pl*; *b*: directed to one end: *pl* ~ attention **5** *a*: seeming help, not hinder) *b*: very great *pl* better now) **6**: constituting development (educate the ~ stu-mother (~ brother) *syn* see PEI-*syn* WHOLE, ENTIRE, TOTAL, ALL *etc.* without exception. WHOLE IMP-ignored, abated, or taken away suggest a state of completeness added (the entire population w-*etc.* everything has been counted, we-total number of people present) TOTAL (*all* proceeds go to charity) **Whole** *n* (14c) **1**: a complete *a* or totally lacking no part, mem-*etc.* fitting or working together as or extent: WHOLLY — *usu.* used in the **whole** **1**: in view of all things considered **2**: in general **whole adv** (14c) **1**: WHOLLY, EN-*Chauncey*) **2**: as a complete ent-**whole cloth** *n* (1840): pure fabri-*of whole cloth*

whole gale *n* (ca. 1805): wind h-*101 kilometers per hour* — see B-**whole-hearted** *v*-'hōl-'hār-'təd-'*ly* *adj* (18c): sincerely devoted, determined, or em-*items*) **2**: marked by complete reserve or hesitation (gave the pres-*— whole-heartedly* *adv*)

whole-hog *adj* (1829): commit-*going* (*a* ~ patriot)

whole hog *n* (1829): the whol-*adverbially* in the phrase *go w-
whole hog adv* (1844): to the-*COMPLETELY* (accepting *whole* *l*-*R. B. Kaplan*)

whole-life *v*-'hōl-'lif' *adj* (1845):*with a fixed premium for the life*
that can be redeemed on sale of
interest loans

whole note *n* (1597): a musical
ter notes and two half notes — see
whole number *n* (1557): any o-*INTEGER*

whole rest *n* (ca. 1890): a music
a whole note — see REST illustrati-
whole-sale *v*-'hōl-'sāl-'*ly* *adj* (13c):*usu.* for resale (as by a retail merc-
wholesale adv (1642) **1**: perfo-*without discrimination* (~ sa-
the sale of commodities in quanti-
wholesale adv (1759): in a whol-
wholesale vb **wholesale-d**; *wh*-
thing) in quantity *usu.* for resale
resale

wholesale-er *v*-'hōl-'sāl-'lər' *n* (185
chiefly *v* to retailers, other merch-
commercial users mainly for resale

wholesome *v*-'hōl-'səm' *adj* (13c)
of mind or spirit **2**: promoting
mind, or morals *b*: having the
mesticity **4** *a*: based on well-g
for the law) *b*: SAFE (it would
Mark Twain) *syn* see HEALTHY

wholesome-ness *n*

whole-souled *v*-'hōl-'sōld' *adj* (18
single-minded devotion: WHOLE-
whole step *n* (ca. 1899): a music
the two half steps — called also *w*-
whole wheat *adj* (1880): made o-
wholly *v*-'hōl-'lē' *adv* [ME *hoollly* (*h*-
wholly) 'hōl-'lē' *adv*] [ME *hoollly* (*h*-
of entire extent: COMPLETELY (*a*-
clusion of other things: SOLELY (*o*-
whom 'hūm, 'ūm' *pron*, objective
of *hw* who] (bef. 12c) — used *a*-
object of a verb or a preceding pr-
John Donne) or less frequently
tion (the man ~ you wrote to)
esp. as an interrogative and *esp.*
ominative with a copulative verb
vicinity of a preposition or a verb

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