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ironic ◦ Some comedian put salt in the sugar bowl. [Late 16C. < French *comédien* < *comédie* (see COMEDY)]

comediienne /kə'mi:diən/ *n* 1. FEMALE COMIC ENTERTAINER a female entertainer who tells jokes 2. COMIC ACTRESS a female actor who takes comic roles 3. AMUSING (often *ironic*) [Mid-19C. < French, form of *comédien* (see COMEDIA)]

comedo /kə'mi:di:ə/ (*plural comedones* /kə'mi:ni dō neez/ or *comedos*) *n* MED same as **blackhead** (sense 1) (*technical*) [Mid-19C. < Latin, 'glutton, worm' < *comedere* 'devour' (see COMESTIBLE)]

comedogenic /kə'mi:di:dʒə'nɪk/ *adj* tending to cause or aggravate blackheads

comedown /kɒm'daʊn/ *n* a decline in status or position (*informal*)

comedy /kə'mi:di/ (*plural -dies*) *n* 1. FUNNY PLAY, FILM, OR BOOK a play, film, or book depicting amusing events 2. COMIC GENRE comic works, especially plays, considered as a literary genre 3. COMIC ENTERTAINMENT entertainment that is amusing 4. COMIC ELEMENTS the humorous aspects of a situation or work of art [14C. Via French *comédie* < Greek *kōmōidia* < *kōmōidos* 'comic actor' < *kōmos* 'revel' + *aoidos* 'singer' < *aoidēn* 'sing'] —*comedia* /kə'mi:di:kəl/ *adj* —*comedically* *adv*

comedy of errors *n* a ludicrous situation in which many mistakes are made and things go wrong

comedy of manners *n* a comedy that satirizes the manners and customs of a section of society, especially fashionable society

come-hither *adj* sexually inviting or provocative (*humorous*)

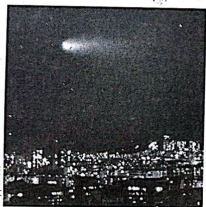
comeing *incorrect spelling of coming*

comely /kə'mi:lɪ/ (*-lier, -liest*) *adj* describes a woman who is good-looking (*archaic or literary*) [13C. Probably shortening of obsolete *become* 'becoming' < *BECOME*] —*comeliness* *n*

come-on *n* 1. something that arouses interest or desire, e.g. a free gift intended to encourage purchasers (*informal*) 2. a comment or action intended to indicate sexual interest in somebody

comer /kə'mɜ:ə/ *n* somebody or something that is likely to succeed (*informal*)

comestible /kə'mestə'bəl/ (*formal*) *n* something edible, usually a cooked food *n* *adj* edible [15C. Via French < medieval Latin *comestibilis* < Latin *comedere*, past participle of *comedere* 'eat completely' < *edere* 'eat']



comet: Hale-Bopp comet, photographed over Bulgaria (1997)

comet /kə'mi:t/ *n* an astronomical object that is composed of a mass of ice and dust and has a long luminous tail produced by vaporization when its orbit passes close to the Sun [12C. Directly or via French < Latin (*stella*) *cometa* 'long-haired (star)' < Greek (*astēr*) *kōmētēs* < *kōmē* 'hair of the head'] —*cometary* *adj* —*cometic* /kə'mi:tɪk/ *adj*

comeuppance /kʊm'ʊpəns/ *n* something unpleasant, regarded as a just punishment for somebody (*informal*) ◦ He got his *comeuppance* in the end. [Mid-19C. < *come up*, probably 'be tried before a court']

comfertainable *incorrect spelling of comfortable*

comfit /kʊm'fɪt/ *n* a sweet consisting of a piece of fruit, a seed, or a nut in a sugar coating [14C. Via French < Latin *confectum, confecta* < *confectus* (see CONFECT)]

comfort /kʊm'fɜ:t/ *n* 1. STATE OF BEING COMFORTABLE conditions in which somebody feels physically relaxed ◦ Enjoy the *comfort* of your own home. 2. COMFORTABLE THING something that makes you feel physically

relaxed (often used in the plural) ◦ the comforts of home 3. RELIEF FROM PAIN relief from pain or anxiety ◦ They brought *comfort* to the wounded. 4. SOMEBODY OR SOMETHING PROVIDING RELIEF somebody or something that provides relief from pain or anxiety ◦ The family has been such a *comfort* to me since my wife died. ■ *vt* (-forts, -forting, -forted) 1. CHEER SOMEBODY to bring somebody relief from distress or anxiety ◦ The victim's parents were being *comforted* at home by relatives. 2. MAKE SOMEBODY COMFORTABLE to make somebody feel pleasantly relaxed ◦ She was *comforted* by the warmth. [12C. < Old French *confort* < late Latin *confortare* 'strengthen completely' < Latin *fortis* 'strong']

comfortable /kʊm'fɜ:təbəl/, -fɜ:təbəl/ *adj* 1. RELAXED feeling comfort or ease ◦ Sit down and make yourselves *comfortable*. 2. MAKING SOMEBODY RELAXED making somebody feel physically relaxed ◦ I changed into something more *comfortable*. 3. NOT ANXIOUS free from stress or anxiety ◦ I don't feel *comfortable* with that idea. 4. MED STABLE PHYSICALLY in a stable physical condition ◦ The patient is *comfortable*. 5. ADEQUATE OR LARGE large enough to prevent anxiety or risk ◦ The government won by a *comfortable* majority. 6. WITH ADEQUATE INCOME having enough income ◦ They're not what you'd call *well-off*, but they're certainly *comfortable*. —*comfortableness* *n*

comfortably /kʊm'fɜ:təbəlɪ/, -fɜ:təbəlɪ/ *adv* 1. AT EASE with a feeling of comfort or ease ◦ Are you sitting *comfortably*? 2. WITHOUT PROBLEMS with enough of something to stave off worry, especially enough money to live on without worrying about providing essentials ◦ We can manage *comfortably* on what we earn together. 3. EASILY by a large margin ◦ The home team won *comfortably*.

comfortably off *adj* having an adequate or more than adequate income ◦ They often complain that they can't afford luxuries, but in fact they're quite *comfortably off*.

comforter /kʊm'fɜ:tə/ *n* 1. somebody who helps to relieve other people's grief or anxieties 2. *N* Am a warm quilt used as a bed covering 3. same as **dummy** (*dated*)

Comforter *n* CHR same as **Holy Spirit**

comfort food *n* easily prepared unsophisticated food that is psychologically comforting, especially food that is high in carbohydrates (*informal*)

comforting /kʊm'fɜ:tɪŋ/ *adj* relieving anxiety or pain —*comfortingly* *adv*

comfortless /kʊm'fɜ:tələs/ *adj* affording no comfort ◦ a *sterile, comfortless* room —*comfortlessly* *adv* —*comfortlessness* *n*

comfort level *n* the set of physical or psychological circumstances in which somebody feels most at ease and free from physical discomfort or stress (*informal*) ◦ the *comfort level* of knowing you have enough savings to meet emergencies

comfort station *n* *N* Am a public toilet (used euphemistically)

comfort zone *n* same as **comfort level**

comfrey /kʊm'frɪ/ *n* a plant with hairy leaves and stems. Flowers: pink, white, or blue, in clusters. Native to: Europe, Asia. Genus: *Symphytum*. [13C. Via Anglo-Norman, Old French < Latin *conferva* < *confervere* 'heat', literally 'boil together' < *fervere* (see FERVENT)]

comfy /kʊm'fi/ (*-fier, -fiest*) *adj* same as **comfortable** (senses 1–2) (*informal*) [Early 19C. Shortened form]

comic /kə'mɪk/ *adj* 1. FUNNY capable of inducing amusement, smiles or laughter 2. THEATRE RELATING TO COMEDY relating to, characteristic of, or appearing in comedy ◦ a *great comic routine* ■ *n* 1. ARTS COMEDIAN comedy ◦ a *great comic* 2. PUBL MAGAZINE a magazine that consists of stories told in a series of coloured panels. *N* Am term **comic book** [Late 16C. Via Latin < Greek *kōmikos* < *kōmos* 'revel']

SYNONYMS See **funny**.

comical /kə'mɪkəl/ *adj* funny to the extent of being absurd, especially if unintentional ◦ *comical facial expressions* —*comically* /kə'mɪkəlɪ/ *n* —*comically* *adv*

SYNONYMS See **funny**.

comic book *n* *N* Am PUBL same as **comic** *n* (sense 2)

comic opera *n* 1. an opera with a humorous plot and a happy ending 2. comic operas considered as a musical genre

comic relief *n* 1. LITERAT, THEATRE FUNNY SECTION INSERTED IN SERIOUS WORK relief from tension, or a further heightening of tension by contrast, provided by a comic scene or passage inserted into a serious work 2. LITERAT, THEATRE CHARACTERS PROVIDING COMIC INTERVALS a character or set of characters whose function is to provide intervals of comedy in a serious work 3. FUNNY INCIDENT WITHIN SERIOUS SITUATION occasion for laughter in the midst of a tense or serious situation

comic strip *n* a series of cartoons that tell a story or a joke

coming /kʊmɪŋ/ *adj* 1. HAPPENING SOON about to happen or start ◦ She was *dreading the coming winter*. 2. PROBABLY SUCCESSFUL likely to be successful in the near future ◦ She's the *coming power* in this company. ■ *n* ARRIVAL the arrival of a person or an event

coming of age *n* 1. the reaching of the official age of adulthood and legal responsibility 2. the reaching of an advanced stage of development ◦ the *coming of age* of the computer

comings and goings *np/* busy activity in which people arrive and depart frequently

Comintern /kə'mɪn'tɜ:n/ *n* an international organization of Communist parties set up by Lenin in 1919 and abolished in 1943 [Early 20C. < Russian *Komintern* < *kommunističeskii internatsional'nyi* 'communist international']

comission *incorrect spelling of commission*

comitee *incorrect spelling of committee*

comity of nations /kə'mɪnɪ-ti/ *n* the mutual recognition among nations of one another's laws, customs, and institutions [< Latin *comitas* < *comis* 'courteous']

comm. *abbr* 1. COMM commerce 2. COMM commercial 3. committee 4. POL commonwealth

comma /kə'mɑ:/ *n* 1. GRAM a punctuation mark (,) that represents a slight pause in a sentence or is used to separate words and figures in a list 2. MUSIC a short pause or interval in a piece of music 3. INSECTS same as **comma butterfly** [Late 16C. Via Latin < Greek *kōmma* 'piece cut off' < *kōptain* 'to cut']

USAGE Commas are used in pairs around text that adds extra information and that can be omitted without affecting the structure of the sentence: He was staying with his sister, a piano teacher, in Paris. The plant, which thrives in acid soils, is grown for its scented foliage. (An increasingly common error is the omission of the second, closing comma.) A comma may also follow a subordinate clause placed at the beginning of a sentence: If I miss the train, I will be late for the meeting. Born in 1950, he spent his early childhood in India. When commas are used to separate items in lists, the final comma (before *and, or, etc.*) is optional: We invited Sarah, Jack, Kate, and Tom. You can have coffee, tea, cold milk or hot chocolate. They sell books, paper, envelopes, stamps, etc. Similarly, a series of adjectives used before a noun may or may not be separated by commas: It was a long, slow, difficult process. She was wearing a long blue knitted scarf. Commas may also be inserted at appropriate points to break up a lengthy complicated sentence, but it is often better and clearer to split the sentence up into smaller units. A comma should not, however, be used to separate a long subject from a verb: The girl I used to know many years ago at school was now unrecognizable (no comma between school and was).

comma butterfly *n* an orange and brown butterfly that has a comma-shaped white mark on the underside of each hind wing. Latin name: *Polyommatus calbum*.

command /kə'mɑ:nd/ *n* 1. ORDER an order or instruction given by somebody in authority 2. CONTROL control over somebody or something that is gained by personal power or authority ◦ She sized up the situation and took *command*. 3. THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE thorough knowledge of something, especially a language ◦ a *fluent command of French* 4. COMPUTING a computer instruction to carry out an operation 5. MIL MILITARY CONTROL the ability to control an area militarily ◦ Our primary objective is to gain *command* of the

high ground 6. MIL. GROUP OF OFFICERS IN CONTROL a group of officers who control part of an army o *the enemy command* 7. MIL. MILITARY GROUP WITH PARTICULAR FUNCTION a section of an army or air force that has a particular function ■ v (mands, -manding, -manded) 1. vt ORDER somebody to give somebody an order or instruction o *I command you to let these men go.* 2. vt BE ABLE TO OBTAIN SOMETHING to deserve or be entitled to something o *With your qualifications you can command a high salary.* 3. vt LOOK OVER SOMETHING to be in a position that has a wide view over something o *The observation deck commands a breathtaking view of San Francisco Bay.* 4. vti MIL. HAVE AUTHORITY OVER SOMETHING to control a military unit or a specific area o *an officer who commands a special operations battalion* 5. vt MIL. CONTROL OR DOMINATE AREA to control an area using military force o *fort that commanded the single pass through steep mountains* [13C. Via Anglo-Norman *comandeur*, Old French *comander* < assumed late Latin *comandare* 'enjoin strongly' < Latin *mandare* (see MANDATE)] — **commandable** adj

command and control n 1. a system that directs the course of a missile 2. a military commander's exercise of authority and direction of operations

commandant /kɒmənˈdɑnt/ n an officer in command of a military organization

command economy n an economy in which resources and business activity are controlled by the government

commandeer /kɒmənˈdiə/ (deers, -deering, -deered) vt 1. SEIZE SOMETHING FOR MILITARY PURPOSES to take something from its owner for official or military purposes 2. TAKE SOMETHING OVER to take or use something, often by force 3. MIL. FORCE SOMEBODY INTO MILITARY SERVICE to force somebody to serve in the armed forces [Early 19C. Via Afrikaans *kommandeer* < Dutch *kommanderen* 'to command' < French *commander* (see COMMAND)]

commander /kəˈmɑːndər/ n 1. MIL. MILITARY OFFICER an officer commanding a military unit 2. NAVY NAVAL RANK an officer in the Royal, Canadian, or US navies or the US Coast Guard of a rank above lieutenant commander 3. POLICE SENIOR POLICE OFFICER an officer in charge of a police district in London 4. MEMBER WITH HIGH RANK a high-ranking member of a knightly and fraternal order — **commandership** n

commander in chief (plural commanders in chief) n an officer who has supreme command of military forces

Commander in Chief n used as an honorific title to denote the president of the United States, as commander of the nation's armed forces

command group n a group of officers and security personnel who accompany a military commander

commanding /kəˈmɑːndɪŋ/ adj 1. IMPRESSIVE able to control or dominate o *a commanding presence* 2. OVERLOOKING looking out over something from a high position o *a commanding view* 3. DOMINANT demonstrating clear superiority o *a commanding lead* — **commandingly** adv

commanding officer n an officer in command of a military unit or establishment

command key n 1. a computer key that gives commands to the computer, expanding the keyboard options 2. a key on a keyboard that causes a device to initiate a predefined action

command-line adj using letters or words instead of codes to give instructions to a computer [Because such instructions are entered on one line after a particular character called the *command prompt*]

commandment /kəˈmɑːndmɪnt/ n a command from God, especially one of the Ten Commandments

command module n the part of a spacecraft that houses the controls and the crew's living quarters

commando /kəˈmɑːndəʊ/ (plural -dos or -dees) n 1. MIL. SPECIALY TRAINED SOLDIER a member of a military force specially trained to make dangerous raids 2. MIL. SPECIALY TRAINED UNIT a military unit made up of commandos 3. HIST. MIL. BOER FIGHTING UNIT a force of Boer troops during the Boer War [Late 18C < Portuguese, 'raiding party' < *comandante* 'commander']

command paper n a government document presented to Parliament, historically by royal command

command performance n a performance of a play or film given by command of a ruler or state

command post n 1. a military headquarters for a command group and its officers during an operation 2. a temporary headquarters for a team of people involved in an operation

commedia dell'arte /kəˈmɛdiə dəl ɑːrˈtɑːt/ n an Italian form of popular comedy developed during the 16th and 17th centuries, characterized by the use of stock characters and familiar plots [Late 19C. < Italian, literally 'comedy of art']

commemorate /kəˈmɛmɔːreɪ/ (-rates, -rating, -rated) vt 1. to honour the memory of somebody or something in a ceremony o *a service held to commemorate the dead* 2. to serve as a memorial to something [Mid-17C. < Latin *commemorare*, past participle of *commemorare* 'call to mind clearly' < *memorare* 'remind' < *memor* 'mindful'] — **commemorative** /-rətɪv/ adj, n — **commemorative** n — **commemorative** adj

commemoration /kəˈmɛmɔːrɪʃn/ n 1. a ceremony or religious service to commemorate a person or an event 2. the act of honouring the memory of a person or an event — **commemorial** adj

commence /kəˈmɛns/ (-mences, -mencing, -menced) vt to begin happening, or begin something [14C. < Old French *com(m)encier* < Latin *initiare* (see INITIATE)] — **commencer** n

commencement /kəˈmɛnsmənt/ n 1. the beginning of something (formal) o *the commencement of open hostilities* 2. N Am a ceremony during which degrees and diplomas are conferred at US high schools, colleges, and universities, or the day on which this ceremony takes place

commend /kəˈmɛnd/ (-mends, -mending, -mended) vt 1. PRAISE SOMEBODY OR SOMETHING to praise somebody or something in a formal way o *She was commended for her bravery.* 2. CAUSE SOMETHING TO BE ACCEPTABLE to show something to possess worthwhile qualities o *The plan has much to commend it.* 3. ENDORSE SOMEBODY OR SOMETHING to endorse somebody or something as being worthy of approval o *I had no hesitation in commending her to them.* 4. SURRENDER SOMEBODY OR SOMETHING FOR SAFEKEEPING to entrust somebody, yourself, or your soul to somebody's safekeeping (archaic or formal) [14C. < Latin *commendare* 'entrust completely' < *mandare* (see MANDATE)] — **commend** n

commendable /kəˈmɛndəbəl/ adj worthy of praise — **commendably** adv

commendation /kəˈmɛndətɪʃn/ n 1. praise of somebody's abilities 2. an award or citation given to somebody in recognition of an outstanding achievement — **commendatory** /kəˈmɛndətəri/ adj

commensal /kəˈmɛnsəl/ adj describes a relationship between organisms of two different species in which one derives food or other benefits from the association while the other remains unharmed and unaffected [Late 19C. Directly or via French < medieval Latin *commensalis* 'at table together' < Latin *mensa* 'table'] — **commensal** n — **commensality** /kəˈmɛnsəlɪti/ n — **commensally** adv

commensalism /kəˈmɛnsəlɪzəm/ n the relationship between organisms of two different species in which one derives food or other benefits from the association while the other remains unharmed and unaffected

commensurate /kəˈmɛnsərət/ adj 1. RELATED BY MEASUREMENT related by virtue of sharing the same system of measurement or by being measurable using the same units 2. COMMENSURATE proportionate to something else (formal) o *His salary is commensurate to his ability.* 3. MATES WITH COMMON FACTOR divisible by the same unit an even number of times [Mid-16C. < late Latin *commensurabilis* 'completely measurable' < *mensurabilis* (see MEASURABLE)] — **commensurability** /kəˈmɛnsərəbɪləti/ n — **commensurably** adv

commensurate /kəˈmɛnsərət/ adj 1. EQUAL IN SIZE OF the same size or extent 2. IN PROPORTION appropriately proportionate o *The rewards will be commensurate with the efforts made.* 3. MEASURED USING COMPATIBLE UNITS describes units of measurement that belong to the same system such as feet and inches or centimetres and metres [Mid-17C. < late Latin *commensuratus*, literally 'measured with' < Latin *mensura* 'measure'] — **commensurately** adv — **commensuration** /kəˈmɛnsərətʃən/ n

comment /kɒmment/ n 1. REMARK a remark that states a fact or expresses an opinion o *Comments are invited from all participants.* 2. CRITICAL OBSERVATION an implied or indirect judgment o *The film is a comment on the materialism of modern society.* 3. DISCUSSION written or spoken discussion, analysis, or criticism o *The incident attracted a great deal of press comment.* 4. EXPLANATORY NOTE a note that explains a passage in a text 5. COMPUT NOTE EXPLAINING PROGRAM CODE a note embedded in a computer program that describes how the following programming code works ■ vt (-ments, -menting, -mented) MAKE COMMENT to state a fact or give an opinion [14C. < Latin *commentum* 'invention' < *comment*, past participle of *commentari* 'invent', literally 'think together']

commentary /kɒmmentəri/ n (plural -ies) 1. SPOKEN DESCRIPTION OF EVENT a spoken description of an event as it happens, especially of a sporting event being broadcast on radio or television. N Am term play-by-play 2. CLARIFICATION OF SITUATION an example illustrating a situation 3. SERIES OF EXPLANATORY NOTES a series of notes explaining or interpreting a written text 4. EXPLANATORY ESSAY an essay or book that explains a text ■ **commentaries** npl RECORD OF EVENTS a record of events, usually written by somebody who participated in them — **commentarial** /kɒmmentəriəl/ adj

commentary box n a booth at a sports stadium from which a television or radio commentator makes a broadcast

commentate /kɒmmentəɪ/ (-tates, -tating, -tated) vt to provide a commentary, either in radio or television broadcasting or on texts

commentator /kɒmmentətər/ n 1. a broadcaster for radio or television who describes events, especially sporting events, as they happen 2. a reporter and analyst of the news for radio, television, or a newspaper

commerce /kɒmɜːs/ n 1. the large-scale buying and selling of goods and services 2. the study of the principles and practices of commerce [Direct or via French < Latin *commercium* 'mutual trade']

commercial /kəˈmɜːʃl/ adj 1. RELATING TO COMMERCE relating to the buying and selling of goods or services 2. COMM SUITABLE FOR TRADING appropriate or sufficient for the purposes of trade 3. COMM FOR INDUSTRIAL USE produced in bulk for industrial use and often unrefined 4. COMM DONE FOR PROFIT done with the primary aim of making money o *a commercial venture* 5. COMM PAID FOR WITH ADVERTISING supported by revenue from advertising o *commercial radio* ■ n BROADCAST, COMM ADVERTISEMENT ON RADIO OR TELEVISION an advertisement broadcast on radio or television — **commercially** /kəˈmɜːʃli/ adv

commercial art n graphic art produced for purposes such as advertising and packaging — **commercial artist** n

commercial bank n a bank whose primary business is providing financial services to companies

commercial break n an interval during a radio or television programme for the purpose of broadcasting advertisements

commercial college n a college that teaches primarily business-related subjects

commercialise /kəˈmɜːʃlɪz/ n the language or jargon used by people who work in business

commercial Internet exchange n E-COMMERCE a connection point between commercial Internet service providers (used in e-commerce)

commercialize vt COMM another spelling of **commercialise**

commercialism /kəˈmɜːʃlɪzəm/ n 1. the principles and methods of commerce 2. excessive emphasis on profit-making — **commercialist** n — **commercialistic** /kəˈmɜːʃlɪstɪk/ adj

commercialize /kəˈmɜːʃlɪz/ (-izes, -izing, -ized), **commercialise** (-ises, -ising, -ised) vt 1. to apply business principles to something or run it as a business 2. to exploit something for financial gain — **commercialization** /kəˈmɜːʃlɪzətʃən/ n

commercially /kəˈmɜːʃli/ adv in commercial terms, or from a profit-making point of view

commercial paper n short-term negotiable financial documents backed only by the good name of the company

instantan /in stán'ton/ *n* in theoretical cosmology, a mathematical solution, one form of which implies that the universe began as a pea-sized structure of space, time, matter, and energy before the big bang

instant-on *adj* including a device or technology that allows for a rapid start-up, so eliminating the need for a warm-up period

instant replay *n* *ANZ, N Am* SPORTS, MEDIA a playing back of a videotape in slow motion, usually to show the movement of a ball or player in a sport shown on television. UK term *action replay*

instar /in stáar/ *n* in the life cycle of an arthropod such as an insect, a stage between two successive moults [Late 19c. < Latin, 'form, image']

instate /in stáyt/ (-states, -stating, -stated) *vt* to establish somebody in office —**instatement** *n*

in statu quo /in státo' kwó/ *adv* in the same state (formal) [*in statu quo ante* 'in the (same) state as before']

instaurate /in stáw rásh'n/ *n* (formal) 1. the restoration of something that has lapsed or fallen into decay 2. the founding or establishment of something [Early 17c. < Latin *instaurare* 'renew'] — **instaurator** /in stáw ráytér/ *n*

instead /in stéd/ *adv* as a replacement or substitute for something [13c. < *in* + *stead* 'place'] > **instead of** as an alternative to or substitute for something

instep /in stép/ *n* 1. the arched middle portion of the human foot between the ankle and toe, especially its upper surface 2. the part of a shoe that covers the middle portion of the foot [15c. Origin?]

instigate /in stí' gáyt/ (-gates, -gating, -gated) *vt* 1. to cause a process to start 2. to cause trouble, especially by urging somebody to do something destructive or wrong [Mid-16c. < Latin *instigare*, past participle of *instigare* 'prick, incite'] — **instigation** /in stí' gáysh'n/ *n* — **instigative** *adj* — **instigator** *n*

instill /in stíl/ (-stills, -stilling, -stilled) *vt* 1. to impress ideas, principles, or teachings gradually on somebody's mind > *tried to instill self-respect in my students* 2. to pour medicine or another liquid into something drop by drop [15c. < Latin *instillare* 'stilla 'drop'] — **instillation** /in stí' láysh'n/ *n* — **instiller** *n* — **instillment** *n*

instill *vt* US spelling of *instill*

instinct /in stíngkt/ *n* 1. STRONG NATURAL IMPULSE a powerful impulse that feels natural rather than reasoned > *followed his instincts and took to his heels* 2. BIOLOGICAL DRIVE an inborn pattern of behaviour characteristic of a species and shaped by biological necessities such as survival and reproduction > *the survival instinct* 3. KNACK a natural gift or skill > *an instinct for putting people at ease* ■ *adj* FILLED completely filled or imbued with something (formal) > *a look instinct with compassion* [15c. < Latin *instinctus* 'impulse' < *instingere* 'incite' < *stingere* 'to sting'] — **instinctual** /in stíngktí'wəl/ *adj*

instinctive /in stíngktí'v/ *adj* 1. relating to, prompted by, or based on a strong natural impulse > *an instinctive fear of water* 2. having a particular quality or skill spontaneously and without effort or instruction > *an instinctive feel for colour* > *an instinctive cook* — **instinctively** *adv* — **instinctiveness** *n*

institute /in stítí'yo' / *n* 1. ORGANIZATION WITH SPECIALIZED GOAL an organization for promoting something such as art, science, or the well-being of a group 2. PLACE FOR ADVANCED STUDY an educational institution, especially one concerned with technical subjects 3. PRINCIPLE an established principle or rule ■ **institutes** *npl* LAW LAW SUMMARY a summary of laws ■ *vt* (-tutes, -tuting, -tuted) 1. START SOMETHING to start or initiate something in an official or formal way > *institute legal proceedings* 2. SET SOMETHING UP to set up or establish something > *institute a literary prize* 3. APPOINT SOMEBODY to appoint somebody to an office, especially a religious one [14c. < Latin *institutus*, past participle of *instituere* 'establish' < *statuere* 'set up' < *stare* 'to stand'] — **instituter** *n*

Institute of Advanced Motorists *n* an independent British motoring organization set up to improve driving standards and road safety, especially by administering an advanced driving test

institution /in stítí'yo' / *n* 1. IMPORTANT ORGANIZATION a large organization that is influential in the com-

munity, e.g. a college, hospital, or bank 2. ESTABLISHED PRACTICE an established law, custom, or practice > *the institution of marriage* 3. STARTING OF SOMETHING the act of initiating or establishing something 4. LONG-ESTABLISHED PERSON OR THING somebody or something that has been well known and established in a place for a long time (informal) 5. PLACE OF CARE OR CONFINEMENT a place where people with mental or physical disabilities are cared for 6. BUSINESS LARGE AND POWERFUL INVESTOR a large financial organization such as a pension fund that has considerable resources for making investments > *a mutual fund available only to institutions* — **institutional** *adj* — **institutionally** *adv* — **institutionary** *adj*

institutionalise *vt* SOC SCI another spelling of **institutionalize**

institutionalism /in stítí'yo' / *n* a belief in the merits of established customs and systems — **institutionalist** *n*

institutionalize /in stítí'yo' / *vt* (-izes, -izing, -ized), **institutionalise** (-ises, -ising, -ised) 1. PUT SOMEBODY INTO INSTITUTION to put somebody into an institution such as a children's home, nursing home, or prison 2. ESTABLISH SOMETHING AS USUAL to make something an established custom or an accepted part of the structure of a large organization or society 3. MAKE SOMETHING INTO OR LIKE INSTITUTION to convert something into an institution, or make something resemble an institution — **institutionalization** /in stítí'yo' / *n*

institutionalized /in stítí'yo' / *adj* 1. having become an established custom or an accepted part of the structure of a large organization or society because of having existed for so long 2. lacking the will or ability to think and act independently because of having spent a long time in an institution such as a psychiatric hospital or prison

institutive /in stítí'yo' / *adj* serving to establish or being established — **institutively** *adv*

in-store *adj* happening, available, or situated within a large retail outlet such as a supermarket or department store > *an in-store bakery*

instr. *abbr* 1. INSTRUCTION 2. EDUC INSTRUCTOR 3. INSTRUMENT 4. GRAM, MUSIC Instrumental

instruct /in strúk't/ (-structs, -structing, -structed) *vt* 1. TRAIN SOMEBODY to teach somebody a subject or how to do something 2. DIRECT SOMEBODY to tell somebody to do something, especially with authority or as an order 3. GIVE SOMEBODY INFORMATION to inform somebody about something, especially in a formal or official manner > *We were instructed that the meeting had been postponed* 4. LAW BRIEF JURY AT END OF CASE to give information as a judge to a jury at the end of a case in order to explain the applicable points of law and summarize what has to be proved 5. OBTAIN LEGAL REPRESENTATION to ask or authorize a lawyer to act on your behalf and supply him or her with relevant information [15c. < Latin *instruere*, past participle of *instruere* 'prepare, equip' < *struere* 'build'] — **instructible** *adj*

SYNONYMS See *teach*.

instruction /in strúk'sh'n/ *n* 1. STATEMENT OF COMMAND a spoken or written statement of what must be done, especially delivered formally, with official authority, or as an order > *acting on instructions we received* 2. TEACHING OR THINGS TAUGHT teaching in a particular subject or skill, or the facts or skills taught > *driving instruction* 3. TEACHING PROCESS OR PROFESSION the act, process, or profession of teaching 4. COMPUTER COMMAND a code that tells a computer to perform a specific operation ■ **instructions** *npl* 1. LIST OF THINGS TO DO printed information about how to do, make, assemble, use, or operate something > *The instructions are printed on the back of the packet* 2. LAW JUDGE'S SUMMARY the information given by a judge to a jury at the end of a case that explains the applicable points of law and summarizes what has to be proved 3. LAW BRIEFING TO LAWYER the relevant information about a legal case given by a client to a solicitor or a solicitor to a barrister — **instructional** *adj* — **instructionally** *adv*

instructive /in strúk'tí'v/ *adj* providing useful information or insight into something — **instructively** *adv* — **instructiveness** *n*

instructor /in strúk'tér/ *n* somebody who teaches something such as a sport or a practical skill > *a ski instructor* — **instructorship** *n*

instrument /ínstró'mánt/ *n* 1. TOOL a tool or mechanical device, especially one used for precision work in science, medicine, or technology 2. MUSIC CARRIER that PRODUCES MUSIC an object used to produce music, e.g. a flute, guitar, or drum 3. MEASURE MEASURING DEVICE a device that measures or controls something, e.g. a speedometer or voltmeter 4. MEANS OF DOING SOMETHING somebody or something used as a means of achieving a desired result or accomplishing a particular purpose > *The secret police were the state's instrument for controlling the populace* 5. OBJECT USED FOR PURPOSE an object that has been or could be used for a purpose > *hit by a blunt instrument* 6. LAW DOCUMENT a legal document (formal) ■ *vt* (-ments, -menting, -mented) 1. MUSIC ARRANGE MUSIC to write or arrange a piece of music for performance on musical instruments 2. MEASURE SUPPLY WITH MEASURING DEVICES to equip something with instruments for measurement or control [13c. Via French < Latin *instrumentum* < *instruere* 'prepare' (see INSTRUCT)]

instrumental /ínstró'b mént'l/ *adj* 1. MAKING SOMETHING HAPPEN playing an important part in achieving a result or accomplishing a purpose > *She was instrumental in getting the legislation passed* 2. MUSIC FOR INSTRUMENTS, NOT VOICES performed on a musical instrument or instruments, not with the voice 3. CONNECTED WITH INSTRUMENTS done with, or produced by, an instrument or instruments > *instrumental readings* 4. GRAM INDICATING MEANS OF DOING SOMETHING used to describe a noun case that indicates that something is used for a purpose or is the means by which something is done 5. PHILOSOPHY OF INSTRUMENTALISM relating to instrumentalism ■ *n* 1. MUSIC MUSIC PLAYED BY INSTRUMENTS a piece of music that is performed on a musical instrument or instruments, not with the voice 2. GRAM NOUN FORM INDICATING MEANS the instrumental case, or a noun in the instrumental case — **instrumentally** *adv*

instrumentalism /ínstró'b mént'líz'm/ *n* the belief that theories are useful tools for making predictions but cannot be literally true or false

instrumentalist /ínstró'b mént'líst/ *n* 1. MUSIC PLAYER OF INSTRUMENT somebody who plays a musical instrument 2. PHILOSOPHY PROponent of INSTRUMENTALISM a supporter or advocate of instrumentalism ■ *adj* PHILOSOPHY ADVOCATING INSTRUMENTALISM supporting or advocating instrumentalism

instrumentality /ínstró'b mént'lítatí/ (plural *ties*) *n* (formal) 1. QUALITY OF BEING INSTRUMENTAL the quality or state of being instrumental 2. ACTION OR USE interventionist action > *But for her instrumentality, the fatal knowledge would not have been imparted.* (Elizabeth Gaskell, *Some Passages from the History of the Chomley Family*, 1865) 3. US POL SECTION in the United States, a subsidiary branch of a department or agency

instrumental learning *n* a form of learning that takes place as a direct consequence of a reward or pleasant outcome for the learner

instrumentation /ínstró'b mén tásh'n, ínstrá'mán't/ *n* 1. MUSIC ARRANGEMENT FOR MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS the composition or arrangement of music for performance, in which a combination of musical instruments is specified 2. MUSIC MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS used the instruments that are used to perform a piece of music 3. EQUIPMENT FOR CONTROL OR OPERATION a set of instruments used for a specific purpose such as operating a machine or controlling an aircraft or for measurement or control 5. MAKING OF INSTRUMENTS of the design, development, or manufacture of instruments for use in science, medicine, technology, or industry 6. MEANS the means or agency through which something is done (formal)

instrument board *n* TECH same as *instrument panel*

instrument flying *n* the flying of an aircraft using only information obtained from instruments rather than from what the pilot can see out of the window

instrument landing *n* the landing of an aircraft while relying on information obtained from instruments rather than from what the pilot can see out of the window