



RANDOM HOUSE
WEBSTER'S
unabridged
dictionary

SECOND EDITION

RANDOM HOUSE
REFERENCE

NEW YORK TORONTO LONDON SYDNEY AUCKLAND

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Random House Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, Second Edition, is a revised and updated edition of
The Random House Dictionary of the English Language, Second Edition, Unabridged.

International Phonetic Alphabet courtesy of International Phonetic Association

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data is available.

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Printed in China.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4

ISBN: 978-0-375-42599-8
ISBN: 978-0-375-42605-6 (Deluxe Edition)
ISBN: 978-0-375-42609-4 (CD-ROM Edition)

comparable to < L phrase *contrā valere* to be of worth against (someone or something). See COUNTER-, -VALENT]

Syn. 1. counterbalance, counterpoise, neutralize.

count-er-view (koun'tar vyoō'), n. an opposing or contrasting opinion. [1580-90; COUNTER- + VIEW]

count-er-weigh (koun'tar wā'), v.t., u.i. to counterbalance; counterpoise. [1400-50; late ME *countreweygen*; see COUNTER-, WEIGH]

count-er-weight (koun'tar wāt'), n. 1. a weight used as a counterbalance. —u.t. 2. to balance or equip with a counterweight. [1685-95; COUNTER- + WEIGHT]

count-er-word (koun'tar wōrd'), n. 1. a word, often of short-lived popularity, widely used as an almost meaningless, automatic response. 2. a word that has come to be used with a meaning much less specific than that which it had originally, as *swell*, *awful*, or *terrific*. [1670-80; COUNTER- + WORD]

count-er-work (n. koun'tar wōrk'; v. koun'tar-wōrk', koun'tar wōrk'), n. 1. work or action to oppose some other work or action. —u.t. 2. to work in opposition. —u.t. 3. to work in opposition to; hinder or frustrate. [1590-1600; COUNTER- + WORK] —**count-er-work'er**, n.

count-ess (koun'tis), n. 1. the wife or widow of a count in the nobility of Continental Europe or of an earl in the British peerage. 2. a woman having the rank of a count or earl in her own right. [1125-75; ME *c(o)ntesse* < AF. See COUNT², -ESS]

count-er-ess. See -ESS.

count-er-house, a building or office used by the accounting and bookkeeping department of a business. [1400-50; late ME]

count-er-num'ber, *Math.* See **whole number** (def. 1). [1960-65]

count-er-room, counting house. [1705-15]

count-less (koun'tlis), adj. too numerous to count; innumerable: the *countless stars*. [1580-90; COUNT¹ + -LESS] —**count-lessly**, adv.

Syn. numberless, endless, myriad, unlimited.

count' noun, *Gram.* a noun, as *apple*, *table*, or *birthday*, that typically refers to a countable thing and that in English can be used in both the singular and the plural and can be preceded by the indefinite article *a* or *an* and by numerals. Cf. **mass noun**. [1950-55]

Count' of Mon'te Cris'to, The (mon'tē kris'tō), (French, *Le Comte de Monte-Cristo*), a novel (1844-45) by Alexandre Dumas père.

count' pal'atine, pl. **counts palatine**. 1. (formerly, in Germany) a count having jurisdiction in his fief or province. 2. Also called **earl palatine**. *Eng. Hist.* an earl or other county proprietor who exercised royal prerogatives within his county. [1590-1600]

count-ri-fied (kun'tra fid'), adj. 1. rustic or rural in appearance, conduct, etc.: a *countified person*; a *countified area amid the suburbs*. 2. not sophisticated or cosmopolitan; provincial. Also, **countified**. [1645-55; COUNTRY + FIED] —**count-ri-fied/ness**, n.

count-ri-fy (kun'tra fi'), v.t., -fied, -fy-ing, to make countified. [COUNTRY + FY]

country (kun'tri), n., pl. **-tries**, adj. —n. 1. a state or nation: *What European countries have you visited?* 2. the territory of a nation. 3. the people of a district, state, or nation: *The whole country backed the president in his decision.* 4. the land of one's birth or citizenship. 5. rural districts, including farmland, parkland, and other sparsely populated areas, as opposed to cities or towns: *Many city dwellers like to spend their vacations in the country.* 6. any considerable territory demarcated by topographical conditions, by a distinctive population, etc.: *mountainous country*; *the Amish country of Pennsylvania*. 7. a tract of land considered apart from any geographical or political limits; region; district. 8. the public. 9. *Lau*, the public at large, as represented by a jury. 10. See **country music**. 11. **go to the country**, *Brit.* to dissolve a Parliament that has cast a majority vote disagreeing with the prime minister and cabinet and to call for the election of a new House of Commons. Also, **appeal to the country**. 12. **put oneself upon the or one's country**, *Lau*, to present one's cause formally before a jury. —adj. 13. of, from, or characteristic of the country; rural: *a winding country road*. 14. of, pertaining to, or associated with country music: *That Nashville station plays country records all day long*. 15. rude; unpolished; rustic: *country manners*. 16. of, from, or pertaining to a particular country. 17. Obs. of one's own country. [1200-50; ME *contree* < AF, OF < VL **regio* *contrāta* *imperial* *se* the viewer, equiv. to *L* *contrā* COUNTER³ + *-āta*, fem. of *-ātus* -ATE¹; cf. G *Ge-*gend region, deriv. of *gen* AGAINST]

country-and-west-ern (kun'trē an wes'tərn), n. See **country music**. [1955-60]

country-bred (kun'trē bred'), adj. raised or bred in the country. [1660-70]

country club, a club, usually in a suburban district, with a clubhouse and grounds, offering various social activities and generally having facilities for tennis, golf, swimming, etc. [1865-70, Amer.]

Country Club Hills, a city in NE Illinois, near Chicago. 14,676.

country cousin, a person from the country or from a small town, to whom the sights and activities of a large city are novel and bewildering. [1760-70]

country-dance (kun'trē dans', -dāns'), n. a dance of rural English origin in which the dancers form circles or squares or in which they face each other in two rows. [1570-80]

country fe/ver, *Older Use*. malaria. [1815-25; Amer.]

country-fied (kun'tri fid'), adj. countified. —**country-fied/ness**, n.

country-folk (kun'trē fōk'), n. (used with a plural *v.*) 1. people living or raised in the country; rustics. 2.

people from the same country; compatriots. Also called **countrypeople**. [1540-50; COUNTRY + FOLK]

country fries*, *Dial.* See **home fries**. Also called **country-fried potatoes** (kun'trē frīd').

country gen'tleman, a wealthy man living in his country home or estate. [1625-35]

country house, a house in the country, esp. a large and impressive house on an estate. [1585-95]

country kitch'en, a large kitchen with ample areas for food preparation and eating.

country-man (kun'trē mən), n., pl. **-men**. 1. a native or inhabitant of one's own country. 2. a native or inhabitant of a particular region. 3. a person who lives in the country. 4. an unsophisticated person, as one who lives in or comes from a rural area; rustic. [1275-1325; ME *contre man*. See COUNTRY, MAN¹]

Syn. 1. compatriot, fellow citizen, landsman. 3. rustic, farmer, peasant. —**Ant.** 1. foreigner.

Usage. See **-man**.

country mile*, *Informal*. a long distance: *He can hit a baseball a country mile*. [1945-50]

country mu/sic, a style and genre of largely string-accompanied American popular music having roots in the folk music of the Southeast and cowboy music of the West, usually vocalized, generally simple in form and harmony, and typified by romantic or melancholy ballads accompanied by acoustic or electric guitar, banjo, violin, and harmonica. Also called **country-and-west-ern**, **country-west-ern** (kun'trē wes'tərn). [1965-70]

country-people (kun'trē pē'pl), n. (used with a plural *v.*) countryfolk. [1570-80; COUNTRY + PEOPLE]

country rock*, 1. a style of popular music combining the features of rock-'n'-roll and country music. Cf. **rockability**. 2. *Geol.* the rock surrounding and penetrated by mineral veins or igneous intrusions. Cf. **wall rock**. [1870-75]

country-seat (kun'trē sēt'), n. *Brit.* a country mansion or estate, esp. one belonging to a distinguished family and large enough to accommodate house parties, hunt meetings, etc. [1575-85; COUNTRY + SEAT]

country-side (kun'trē saīd'), n. 1. a particular section of a country, esp. a rural section. 2. its inhabitants. [1615-25; COUNTRY + SIDE¹]

country singer, a singer of country music songs. [1950-55]

country store, a general store, esp. in a rural or resort area. [1735-45, Amer.]

country-wide (kun'trē wīd'), adj. extending across or throughout the whole country; nationwide: a *country-wide reaction*; a *countrywide highway system*. Also, **country-wide***. [1920-25; COUNTRY + WIDE]

country-wom-an (kun'trē wōm'ən), n., pl. **-women**. 1. a woman who is a native or inhabitant of one's own country. 2. a woman who lives in the country. [1400-50; late ME; see COUNTRY, WOMAN]

Usage. See **-woman**.

count-ship (koun'tshīp), n. 1. the rank or position of a count. 2. the territory or jurisdiction of a count. [1695-1705; COUNT² + -SHIP]

count-ty (koun'tē), n., pl. **-ties**. 1. the largest administrative division of a U.S. state: *Miami, Florida*, is in *Dade County*. 2. one of the chief administrative divisions of a country or state, as in Great Britain and Ireland. 3. one of the larger divisions for purposes of local administration, as in Canada and New Zealand. 4. the territory of a county, esp. its rural areas: *We farmed out in the county before moving to town*. 5. the inhabitants of a county: *It was supposed to be a secret, but you told the whole county*. 6. the domain of a count or earl. [1250-1300; ME *counte* < AF *conté*, OF *conté*, *conté* < LL *comitatus* imperial seat, office of a comes (see COUNT²), equiv. to *L* *comitatus* s. of comes -ātus -ATE¹ (or by reanalysis of *L* *comitatus* escort, retinue, orig. v. noun of comitari to accompany, deriv. of comes)]

count-ty*, (koun'tē), n. Obs. count². [1540-50; < AF *counte* COUNT²; -y by confusion with COUNTRY¹]

count-ty a/gent, a U.S. governmental official employed chiefly to advise farmers on farming and marketing techniques and to promote educational programs fitted to the needs of rural people. Also called **agricultural agent**. Cf. **extension agent**. [1695-1705, Amer.]

count-ty board, the governing body of a U.S. county consisting usually of three or more elected members. [1830-40, Amer.]

count-ty clerk, an elective county official in most U.S. states who generally keeps records of property titles, distributes ballots, issues licenses, etc. [1685-95]

count-ty commis/sioner, a member of a U.S. county board overseeing the collection and disbursement of funds and other affairs of the county. [1680-90]

count-ty court, 1. (in the U.S.) a. an administrative board in counties in some states. b. a judicial tribunal in some states with jurisdiction extending over one or more counties. 2. (in England) a. the lowest civil tribunal, having limited jurisdiction, mostly for the recovery of small debts. b. (formerly) the assembly of local residents who met periodically in each county under the presidency of the sheriff to transact the judicial and administrative business of the county. [1525-35]

count-ty fair, a competitive exhibition of farm products, livestock, etc., often held annually in the same place in the county. [1835-45]

count-ty farm, a farm maintained for the poor by a county. [1870-75, Amer.]

count-ty home, a county poorhouse. Also called **count-ty house**. [1910-15, Amer.]

count-ty pal'atine, pl. **counties palatine**. the territory under the jurisdiction of a count palatine. [1400-50; late ME]

count-ty pin, *South Midland and Southern U.S.* counterpin.

count-ty seat, the seat of government of a county. [1795-1805, Amer.]

coup¹ (koo), n., pl. **coups** (kooz; Fr. *koo*). 1. a highly successful, unexpected stroke, act, or move; a clever action or accomplishment. 2. (among the Plains Indians of North America) a brave or reckless deed performed in battle by a single warrior, as touching or striking an enemy warrior without sustaining injury oneself. 3. See **coup d'état**. 4. **count coup**, (among Plains Indians of North America) a. to perform a coup. b. to recount or relate the coups one has performed. [1640-50; < F: lit., blow, stroke, OF *colp* < LL *colpus*, L *colaphus* < Gk *kolaphos*]

coup² (kōp, kōōp), v.t., u.i. *Scot.* overturn; upset. [1350-1400; ME *coupe* to pay for < ON *kaupa* to buy, barter; c. OE *cēapan*, G *kaufen*. See CHEAP]

coup de fou-dre (koo'd' fōō'dr'), pl. **coups de fou-dre** (koo'd' fōō'dr'), *French*. 1. a thunderbolt. 2. love at first sight.

coup de grâce (koo'd' grās'), pl. **coups de grâce** (koo'd' grās'), *French*. 1. a death blow, esp. one delivered mercifully to end suffering. 2. any finishing or decisive stroke. [lit., blow of mercy]

coup de main (koo'd' mān'), pl. **coups de main** (koo'd' mān'), *French*. a surprise attack; a sudden development. [lit., blow from the hand]

coup de maître (koo'd' mē'tr'), pl. **coups de maître** (koo'd' mē'tr'), *French*. a master stroke.

coup de poing (Fr. *koo'd' pwan*), pl. **coups de poing** (Fr. *koo'd' pwan*), *Archaic*. (no longer in technical use) a Lower Paleolithic stone hand axe, pointed or ovate in shape and having sharp cutting edges. [1910-15; < F: lit., blow of the fist]

coup d'es-sai (koo'd' de se'), pl. **coups d'es-sai** (koo'd' de se'), *French*. a first attempt. [lit., trial stroke]

coup d'état (koo'd' də tā'; Fr. *koo'də tā'*), pl. **coups d'état** (koo'd' də tāz'; Fr. *koo'də tāz'*), a sudden and decisive action in politics, esp. one resulting in a change of government illegally or by force. [1640-50; < F: lit., stroke concerning the state]

Syn. overthrow, rebellion, revolution, uprising.

coup de thé-â-tre (koo'd' tā ā'tr'), pl. **coups de thé-â-tre** (koo'd' tā ā'tr'), *French*. 1. a surprising or unexpected turn of events in a play. 2. a sensational and unexpected turn in the plot of a drama. 3. any theatrical trick intended to have a sensational effect.

coupe¹ (koo'p), n. 1. Also, **coupé**. a closed, two-door car shorter than a sedan of the same model. 2. coupe (def. 1-3). [1880-85; see COUPÉ]

coupe² (koo'p), n. 1. ice cream or sherbet mixed or topped with fruit, liqueur, whipped cream, etc. 2. a glass container for serving such a dessert, usually having a stem and a wide, deep bowl. 3. any rimless plate. [1375-1425 for earlier senses "wicker basket, tub, cask"; 1890-95 for current senses; ME < AF *coupe*, OF *coupe* < LL *cuppa*, L *cūpa* cask, tub, barrel; cf. CUP]

cou-pé (koo'pā' or, for 1, 5, koo'p), n. 1. a short, four-wheeled, closed carriage, usually with a single seat for two passengers and an outside seat for the driver. 2. the end compartment in a European diligence or railroad car. 3. *Ballet*. an intermediary step to transfer the weight from one foot to the other. 4. (in Continental heraldry) party per fess. 5. coupe¹ (def. 1). Also, **coupe** (for def. 1-3). [1825-35; < F *coupe* (in def. 1 and 2 short for *carrosse coupé* cut (i.e., shortened) coach), ptp. of *couper* to cut off, v. deriv. of *couper* COUP; cf. COPE¹]

Cou-pe-rin (koo'pə'ran'), n. **fran-çois** (frān swā'), 1668-1733, French composer.

Cou-pe-rus (koo'pə'ras), n. **Louis** (loo'ē), 1863-1923, Dutch novelist.

cou-pe-tte (koo'pēt'), n. a small coupe for serving dessert. [COUPÉ² + -ETTE]

cou-ple (kup'al), n., u., -pled, -pling. —n. 1. two of the same sort considered together; pair. 2. two persons considered as joined together, as a married or engaged pair, lovers, or dance partners: *They make a handsome couple*. 3. any two persons considered together. 4. *Mech.* a pair of equal, parallel forces acting in opposite directions and tending to produce rotation. 5. Also called **couple-club**. *Carpenary*. a pair of rafters connected by a tie beam or collar beam. 6. a leash for holding two hounds together. 7. *Fox Hunting*. two hounds: *25 hounds or 12½ couple*. 8. **a couple of**, more than two, but not many, of; a small number of; a few: *It will take a couple of days for the package to get there*. Also, **a couple**. —u.t. 9. to fasten, link, or associate together in a pair or pairs. 10. to join; connect. 11. to unite in marriage or in sexual union. 12. *Elect.* a. to join or associate by means of a coupler. b. to bring (two electric circuits or circuit components) close enough to permit an exchange of electromagnetic energy. —u.t. 13. to join in a pair; unite. 14. to copulate. [1175-1225; (n.) ME < AF *cōuple*, OF *couple*, *cuple* < L *cōpula* a tie, bond (see COPULA); (v.) ME *couplen* < AF *cō(u)pler*, OF *coupler*, *cupler* < L *cōpulāre* (see COPULATE)] —**cou-ple-a-ble**, adj.

Usage. The phrase **A COUPLE OF** has been in standard use for centuries, especially with measurements of time and distance and in referring to amounts of money: *They walked a couple of miles in silence. Repairs will probably cost a couple of hundred dollars.* The phrase is used in all but the most formal speech and writing. The shortened phrase **A COUPLE**, without *of* (*The gas station is a couple miles from here*), is an Americanism of recent development that occurs chiefly in informal speech or representations of speech. Without a following noun, the

CONCISE PRONUNCIATION KEY: act, căpe, däre, pärt; set, equal; if, ice; ox, över; order, oil, bōok, bōol, out; up, ürge; child; sing; shoe; thin; that; zh as in treasure, a = a as in alone, e as in system, i as in easily, o as in gallop, u as in circus; * as in fire (fī'r), hour (ou'r), l and n can serve as syllabic consonants, as in cradle (krād'l), and button (but'n). See the full key inside the front cover.

phrase is highly informal: Jack shouldn't drive. I think he's had a couple. (Here the noun drinks is omitted).

In referring to two people, COUPLE, like many collective nouns, may take either a singular or a plural verb. Most commonly, it is construed as a plural: The couple were traveling to Texas. See also collective noun.

couple-close (kup'al klos'), n. 1. Heraldry, a narrow chevron, one-quarter the usual breadth. 2. Carpenter's couple (def. 6). [1565-75]

coupler (kup'lar), n. 1. a person or thing that couples or links together. 2. Mach. a rod or link transmitting force and motion between a rotating part and a rotating or oscillating part. 3. Also called **coupling**, **Railroads**, a device for joining pieces of rolling stock. 4. a device in an organ or harpsichord for connecting keys, manuals, or a manual and pedals, so that they are played together when one is played. 5. *Elect.* a device for transferring electrical energy from one circuit to another, as a transformer that joins parts of a radio apparatus together by induction. 6. (in color photography) a chemical that reacts with the developer to produce one of the colors in a print or transparency. [1545-55; COUPLE + -ER']

couples ther'apy, a counseling procedure that attempts to improve the adaptation and adjustment of two people who form a conjugal unit.

couplet (kup'lit), n. 1. a pair of successive lines of verse, esp. a pair that rhyme and are of the same length. 2. a pair; couplet. 3. Music, any of the contrasting sections of a rondo occurring between sections of the refrain. [1570-80; < MF; see COUPLE, -ER']

coupling (kup'ling), n. 1. the act of a person or thing that couples. 2. Mach. a. a device for joining two rotating shafts semipermanently at their ends so as to transmit torque from one to the other. Cf. **clutch** (def. 12a). b. a part with an inside thread for connecting two pipes of the same diameter. c. a fitting at the end of a length of hose into which the end of another such length can be screwed or fitted. 3. **Railroads**, coupler (def. 3). 4. *Elect.* a. the association of two circuits or systems in such a way that power may be transferred from one to the other. b. a device or expedient to ensure this. 5. a short length of plumbing pipe having each end threaded on the inside. 6. the part of the body between the tops of the shoulder blades and the tops of the hip joints in a dog, horse, etc. 7. linkage (def. 5). [1300-50; ME; see COUPLE, -ING']

coupling capacitor, *Electronics*. See **blocking capacitor**.

coupon (koo'pon, kyoo'-), n. 1. a portion of a certificate, ticket, label, advertisement, or the like, set off from the main body by dotted lines or the like to emphasize its separability, entitling the holder to something, as a gift or discount, or for use as an order blank, a contest entry form, etc. 2. a separate certificate, ticket, etc., for the same purpose. 3. one of a number of small detachable certificates calling for periodic interest payments on a bearer bond. Cf. **coupon bond**. 4. *Metal.* a sample of metal or metalwork submitted to a customer or testing agency for approval. [1815-25; < F; OF *coupon* piece cut off, equiv. to *colpe(r)* to cut (see COPE') + -on n. suffix]

coupon-less, *adj.*
Pronunciation, *COUPON*, related to *cope* and *coup*, is of French origin. It has developed an American pronunciation variant (kyoo'pon) with an unhistorical y-sound not justified by the spelling. This pronunciation is used by educated speakers and is well-established as perfectly standard, although it is sometimes criticized. Its development may have been encouraged by analogy with words like *curious*, *cupid*, and *cute*, where c is followed by a "long u" and the (y) is mandatory.

coupon bond, a bond, usually a bearer bond, that pays interest by means of coupons with specific cash values. [1860-65, Amer.]

coupon clip/per, a well-to-do person much of whose income is derived from clipping and cashing coupons from coupon bonds. [1880-85]

coupon-er (koo'pon-er, kyoo'-), n. a person who seeks out or saves discount coupons, as for buying grocery items. [COUPON + -ER']

coupon-ing (koo'pon-ing, kyoo'-), n. 1. the practice of distributing discount coupons to consumers as a form of product promotion. 2. the activity of seeking out or saving discount coupons to save money on food or household purchases. [1950-55; COUPON + -ING']

coupon rate, the interest rate fixed on a coupon bond or other debt instrument.

coup/ stick/ (koo), a stick with which some North American Indian warriors sought to touch their enemies in battle as a sign of courage. [1875-80]

courage (koo'rij, kur'-), n. 1. the quality of mind or spirit that enables a person to face difficulty, danger, pain, etc., without fear; bravery. 2. Obs. the heart as the source of emotion. 3. **have the courage of one's convictions**, to act in accordance with one's beliefs, esp. in spite of criticism. [1250-1300; ME *corage* < OF, equiv. to *cuer* heart (< L *cor*; see *HEART*) + -age -AGE]
Syn. 1. fearlessness, dauntlessness, intrepidity, pluck, spirit. COURAGE, BRAVERY, VALOR, BRAVADO refer to qualities of spirit and conduct. COURAGE permits one to face extreme dangers and difficulties without fear; to take (or lose) courage. BRAVERY implies true courage with daring and an intrepid boldness; *bravery in a battle*. VALOR implies heroic courage; *valor in fighting for the right*. BRAVADO is now usually a boastful and ostentatious pretense of courage or bravery; *empty bravado*.
Ant. 1. cowardice.

cou-ra-geous (koo ra'joes), *adj.* possessing or characterized by courage; brave: a courageous speech against

the dictator. [1250-1300; ME *corageous* < AF *curajous*, OF *corageus*, equiv. to *corage* COURAGE + -eus -EOUS]
—cou-ra/geously, adv. **—cou-ra/geous-ness, n.**
Syn. See *brave*.

cour-ant (koo'r'ant for 1; koo' rant', Fr. koo ran' for 2), *adj.* 1. Heraldry, (of an animal) represented in the act of running; a greyhound *courant*. —n. 2. *courante*. [1595-1605; < F; lit., running, masc. prp. of *courir* to run; cf. CURRENT]

cour-ante (koo rant'; Fr. koo rant'), n., pl. -rantes (-rants'; Fr. -rants'). 1. a dance dating back to the 17th century and characterized by a running or gliding step. 2. a piece of music for or suited to this dance. 3. Music, a movement following the allmande in the classical suite. Also, **courant**. [1580-90; < MF; lit., running, fem. prp. of *courir* to run; cf. CURRENT]

Cour-an-tyne (koo'ran tin', kor'-), n. a river in N South America, flowing N along the Guayana-Suriname border to the Atlantic Ocean, ab. 450 mi. (725 km) long.

Cour-bet (koo'r be'), n. **Gus-tave** (gys tav'), 1819-77, French painter.

Cour-be-voie (koo'r be vwa'), n. a city in N France, N.W. of Paris. 54,578.

cou-reur de bois (koo'roer da bwä'), pl. **cou-reurs de bois** (koo'roer da bwä'), *pl.* a French or French-Indian trapper of North America, esp. of Canada. [lit., runner, hunter of (the) woods]

cour-gette (koo'r zhet'), n. **Chiefly Brit.** zucchini. [1930-35; < F, orig. dim. of *course* good < VL **accucurica*, for *Lucubrita*; cf. CURCURIT, GOURD, -ETTE]

cour-rier (koo'r'ee ar, koo'r'-), n. 1. a messenger, usually traveling in haste, bearing urgent news, important reports or packages, diplomatic messages, etc. 2. any means of carrying news, messages, etc., regularly. 3. the conveyance used by a courier, as an airplane or ship. 4. **Chiefly Brit.** a tour guide for a travel agency. [1350-1400; < MF *courrier* < *Corriere*, equiv. to *curr(ere)* to run < L *currere* + -iere < L *curr-* -ARY; r. ME *corour* < AF *cor(i)our*, OF *corour* < *l'uri* *curritor* runner; see CURRENT, -TOR]

cour-lan (koo'r'lan), n. the limpkin. [*< F courlan <* Carib; akin to Galibi *kuririri*]

Cour-land (koo'r'land), n. a former duchy on the Baltic later, a province of Russia and, in 1918, incorporated into Latvia. Also, **Kurland**.

Cour-nand (koo'r'nand, -nand; Fr. koo'r nan'), n. **André Fré-dé-ric** (än dra' frä da roer'), born 1895, U.S. physiologist, born in France; Nobel prize for medicine, 1956.

course (koo'rs, koo'r), n., v., **course-d**, **course-ing**. —n. 1. a direction or route taken or to be taken. 2. the path, route, or channel along which anything moves: the *course of a stream*. 3. advance or progression in a particular direction; forward or onward movement. 4. the continuous passage or progress through time or a succession of stages: *in the course of a year*; *in the course of the battle*. 5. the track, ground, water, etc., on which a race is run, sailed, etc.: *One runner fell halfway around the course*. 6. a particular manner of proceeding: *a course of action*. 7. a customary manner of procedure, regular or natural order of events: *as a matter of course*; *the course of a disease*. 8. a mode of conduct; behavior. 9. a systematized or prescribed series: *a course of lectures*; *a course of medical treatments*. 10. a program of instruction, as in a college or university: *a course in economics*. 11. a prescribed number of instruction periods or classes in a particular field of study. 12. a part of a meal served at one time: *The main course was roast chicken with mashed potatoes and peas*. 13. *Naut.* a. the line along the earth's surface upon or over which a vessel, an aircraft, etc., proceeds: described by its bearing with relation to true or magnetic north. b. a point of the compass. 14. *Naut.* the lowermost sail on a fully square-rigged mast: designated by a special name, as foremast or mainmast, or by the designation of the mast itself, as fore course or main course. See *diag.* under *ship*. 15. *Building Trades*, a continuous and usually horizontal range of bricks, shingles, etc., as in a wall or roof. 16. one of the pairs of strings on an instrument of the lute family, tuned in unison or in octaves to increase the volume. 17. the row of stitches going across from side to side in knitting and other needlework (opposed to *wale*). 18. Often, **courses**, the menses. 19. a charge by knights in a tournament. 20. a pursuit of game with dogs by sight rather than by scent. 21. See *golf course*. 22. a race. 23. **in due course**, in the proper or natural order of events; eventually: *They will get their come-uppance in due course*. 24. **of course**, a. certainly; definitely: *Of course I'll come to the party*. b. in the usual or natural order of things: *Extra services are charged for, of course*. —*v.* 25. to run through or over. 26. to chase; pursue. 27. to hunt (game) with dogs by sight rather than by scent. 28. to cause (dogs) to pursue game by sight rather than by scent. 29. *Masonry*, to lay (bricks, stones, etc.) in courses. —*v.* 30. to follow a course; direct one's course. 31. to run, race, or move swiftly: *The blood of ancient emperors courses through his veins*. 32. to take part in a hunt with hounds, a tilting match, etc. [1250-1300; ME *co(u)r(s)* < AF *co(u)r(s)*, OF *co(u)r* < L *currere* a running, course, equiv. to *curr(ere)* to run + -sus, var. of -tus suffix of v. action]
Syn. 1. way, road, track, passage. 2. 13a, bearing. 6, method, mode. 7, process, career. 15, row, layer.

course/ pro-tract/or, a navigational instrument for measuring the bearing of a course as given on a chart, having a disk calibrated in degrees and an arm pivoted about the center of the disk.

cours-er¹ (koo'r'sar, kor'-), n. 1. a person or thing that courses. 2. a dog for coursing. [1585-95; COURSE + ER']

cours-er² (koo'r'sar, kor'-), n. *Literary*, a swift horse. [1250-1300; ME *co(u)r*, AF, OF *coursier* < VL **currarius*, equiv. to L *curr(us)* course + -arius -ARY; see -ER']

cours-er³ (koo'r'sar, kor'-), n. any of several swift-footed, ploverlike birds of the genera *Cursorius* and

Pluvianus, chiefly of the desert regions of Asia and Africa. [1760-70; irreg. < NL *Cursorius* fitted for running; equiv. to L *curr(ere)* to run + -sorius, for -torius -TOR-; cf. COURSE]

course-ware (koo'r'swäre', koo'r'-), n. **Computers**, educational software designed esp. for use with classroom computers. [COURSE + (SOFT)WARE]

course-work (koo'r'swörk', koo'r'-), n. 1. the work required of a student in a particular course of study; classroom work. 2. curricular studies or academic work. [COURSE + WORK]

course-ing (koo'r'sing, koo'r'-), n. 1. the act of a person or thing that courses. 2. the sport of pursuing game with dogs that follow by sight rather than by scent. [1530-40; COURSE + -ING']

court (kört, kört), n. 1. *Law*, a. a place where justice is administered. b. a judicial tribunal duly constituted for the hearing and determination of cases. c. a session of a judicial assembly. 2. an area open to the sky and mostly or entirely surrounded by buildings, walls, etc. 3. a high interior usually having a glass roof and surrounded by several stories of galleries or the like. 4. **Chiefly Irish**, a stately dwelling. 5. a short street. 6. a smooth, level quadrangle on which to play tennis, basketball, etc. 7. one of the divisions of such an area. 8. the residence of a sovereign or other high dignitary; palace. 9. a sovereign's or dignitary's retinue. 10. a sovereign and councilors as the political rulers of a state. 11. a formal assembly held by a sovereign. 12. homage paid, as to a king. 13. special or devoted attention in order to win favor, affection, etc.: *to pay court to the king*. 14. the body of qualified members of a corporation, council, board, etc. 15. a branch or lodge of a fraternal society. 16. *Animal Behav.* a. an area where animals of a particular species gather to display. b. the group of insects, as honeybees, surrounding the queen; retinue. 17. **hold court**, a. to have a formal assembly of a judicial tribunal or one held by a sovereign. b. to be surrounded by one's disciples or admirers, giving advice, exchanging gossip, receiving compliments, etc. 18. *out of court*, a. without a legal hearing; privately: *The case will be settled out of court*. b. out of the question; undeserving of discussion: *This wild scheme is entirely out of court*. —*v.* 19. to try to win the favor, preference, or goodwill of; *to court the rich*. 20. to seek the affections of; woo. 21. (of animals) to attempt to attract (a mate) by engaging in certain species-specific behaviors. 22. to attempt to gain (applause, favor, a decision, etc.). 23. to hold out inducements to; invite. 24. to act in such a manner as to cause, lead to, or provoke: *to court disaster by reckless driving*. —*v.* 25. to seek another's love; woo. 26. (of animals) to engage in certain species-specific behaviors in order to attract individuals of the opposite sex for mating. [1125-75; ME *co(u)rt* < AF, OF < L *cohort* -s (of *cohors*) farmyard; see COHORT]

Court (kört, kört), n. **Margaret Smith**, born 1942, Australian tennis player.

court-bouillon (koo'r'boo'il yan', -yon', koo'r', koo'r'-), *pl.* **courts-bouillions** (koo'r'boo'il yonz', -yonz', koo'r', koo'r'-), *Fr.* **koo'r boö yon'**. *French Cookery*, 1. a vegetable broth or fish stock with herbs, used for poaching fish. 2. a rich soup containing wine. [1715-25; < F; a preparation of salted water, white wine, herbs, and various other ingredients, in which fish, shellfish, or vegetables are cooked; lit., short broth]

court/ Chris-tian, *pl.* **courts Christian**. See *ecclesiastical court*. [1250-1300; ME]

court/ cup/board, *Eng. Furniture*, a sideboard of the 16th and 17th centuries, having three open tiers, the middle of which sometimes has a small closed cabinet with oblique sides. Cf. *press cupboard*. [1585-95]

court/ dance/, a dignified dance for performance at a court. Cf. *folk dance* (def. 1).

court/ dress/, the formal costume required to be worn at a royal court on ceremonial and other occasions. [1690-1700]

court-te-ous (koo'r'tee'as), *adj.* having or showing good manners; polite. [1225-75; COURT + -EOUS; r. ME *co(u)rtis* < AF; see COURT, -ESE] —**court-te-ous-ly, adv.** —**court-te-ous-ness, n.**
Syn. *mannerly, gracious, courtly*. See *civil*.

court-te-san (koo'r'te zan, koo'r', koo'r'-), n. a prostitute or paramour; esp. one associating with noblemen or men of wealth. Also, **court-te-zan**. [1540-50; < MF *courtisane* < *it. cortigiana*, lit., woman of the court, deriv. of *corte court*]

court-te-sy (koo'r'te se or, for 5, koo'r'tse), n., pl. -sies, *adj.* —n. 1. excellence of manners or social conduct; polite behavior. 2. a courteous, respectful, or considerate act or expression. 3. indulgence, consent, or acquiescence: *a "colonel" by courtesy rather than by right*. 4. favor, help, or generosity: *The costumes for the play were by courtesy of the local department store*. 5. a curtsy. —*adj.* 6. done or performed as a matter of courtesy or protocol: *a courtesy call on the mayor*. 7. offered or provided free by courtesy of the management: *While waiting to board the airplane, we were provided with courtesy coffee*. [1175-1225; ME *curteisie* < AF, OF; see COURTEOUS, -Y']
Syn. 1. courteousness, civility, urbanity.

cour-tesy car/, 1. a limousine or van provided by a hotel, airline, etc., for free transportation over a fixed route, as between an airport and a hotel. 2. an automobile provided by a garage or repair shop for use while one's own car is being repaired.

cour-tesy card/, a card making the bearer eligible for special prices, privileges, or consideration, as at a club, hotel, store, or bank. [1930-35, Amer.]

cour-tesy light/, a light on the inside of an automobile that is turned on automatically when a door is opened. [1955-60]

cour-tesy ti-tle, 1. a title applied or assumed through custom, courtesy, or association and without regard for its being officially merited. 2. a title allowed by custom, as to the children of dukes. [1860-65]

CONCISE ETYMOLOGY KEY: <, descended or borrowed from; >, whence; b., blend of; blended; c., cognate with; cf., compare; deriv., derivative; equiv., equivalent; imit., imitative; obi., oblique; r., replacing; s., stem; sp., spelling, spelled; resp., respelling, respelled; trans., translation; ? , origin unknown; *, unattested; † , probably earlier than. See the full key inside the front cover.