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1 coun-try \ˈkən-trē\ *n*, *pl* countries [ME *contree*, fr. OF *contrée*, fr. ML *contra*, fr. L *contra* against, on the opposite side] (13c) **1**: an indefinite usu. extended expanse of land: REGION **2** **a**: the land of a person's birth, residence, or citizenship **b**: a political state or nation or its territory **3** **a**: the people of a state or district: POPULACE **b**: JURY **c**: ELECTORATE **2** **4**: rural as distinguished from urban areas **5**: COUNTRY MUSIC — **coun-try-ish** \-trē-īsh\ *adj*

2 coun-try *adj* (14c) **1**: of, relating to, or characteristic of the country **2** **a**: of or relating to a decorative style associated with life in the country (an English ~ look); also: possessing a style of rustic simplicity (~ furniture) **b**: prepared or processed with farm supplies and procedures (~ ham) **3**: of, relating to, suitable for, or featuring country music (~ singers)

country and western *n* (1960): COUNTRY MUSIC — usu. hyphenated in attributive use

country club *n* (1867): a suburban club for social life and recreation; *esp*: one having a golf course — usu. hyphenated in attributive use

coun-try-dance \ˈkən-trē-ˈdɑn(t)s\ *n* (1579): any of various native English dances in which partners face each other *esp*. in rows

country gentleman *n* (1632) **1**: a well-to-do country resident; an owner of a country estate **2**: one of the English landed gentry

country house *n* (14c): a house and *esp.* a mansion in the country

coun-try-man \ˈkən-trē-mən, 3 often -ˈmən\ *n* (14c) **1**: an inhabitant or native of a specified country **2**: COMPATRIOT **3**: one living in the country or marked by country ways: RUSTIC

country mile *n* (1950): a long distance

country music *n* (1952): music derived from or imitating the folk style of the Southern U.S. or of the Western cowboy

country rock *n* (1968): ROCKABILLY

coun-try-seat \ˈkən-trē-sēt\ *n* (1583): a house or estate in the country

coun-try-side \ˈkən-trē-sīd\ *n* (1727) **1**: a rural area **2**: the inhabitants of a countryside

coun-try-wide \ˈkən-trē-wīd\ *adj* (1915): extending throughout a country

coun-try-wom-an \ˈkən-trē-wū-mən\ *n* (15c) **1**: a woman compatriot **2**: a woman resident of the country

1 coun-ty \ˈkaun-tē\ *n*, *pl* counties [ME *counte*, fr. MF *conté*, fr. ML *comitatus*, fr. LL, office of a count, fr. *comit-*, comes count — more at COUNT] (14c) **1**: the domain of a count **2** **a**: one of the territorial divisions of England and Wales and formerly also of Scotland and Northern Ireland constituting the chief units for administrative, judicial, and political purposes **b** (1): the people of a county (2) *Brit*: the gentry of a county **3**: the largest territorial division for local government within a state of the U.S. **4**: the largest local administrative unit in various countries — **county** *adj*

2 coun-ty *n*, *pl* counties [modif. of MF *comite*] (1550) *archaic*: ³COUNT

country agent *n* (1705): a consultant employed jointly by federal and state governments to provide information about agriculture and home economics

country court *n* (1639): a court in some states that has a designated jurisdiction *usu.* both civil and criminal within the limits of a county

country fair *n* (1856): a fair *usu.* held annually at a set location in a county *esp.* to exhibit local agricultural products and livestock

country palatine *n* (15c): the territory of a count palatine

country seat *n* (1803): a town that is the seat of county administration

country town *n* (1670) *chiefly Brit*: COUNTY SEAT

1 coup \kōp\ *vb* [ME, to strike, fr. MF *couper* — more at COPE] (ca. 1572) *chiefly Scot*: OVERTURN, UPSET

2 coup \kū\ *n*, *pl* coups \kūz\ [F, blow, stroke — more at COPE] (1791) **1**: a brilliant, sudden, and *usu.* highly successful stroke or act **2**: COUP D'ÉTAT

coup de grâce or **coup de grace** \kū-də-ˈgrās\ *n*, *pl* coups de grâce or **coups de grace** \kū-də-ˈgrās\ [F *coup de grâce*, lit., stroke of mercy] (1699) **1**: a death blow or shot administered to end the suffering of one mortally wounded **2**: a decisive finishing blow, act, or event

coup de main \-ma\ *n*, *pl* coups de main \kū-də-ˈmā\ [F, lit., hand stroke] (1758): a sudden attack in force

coup d'état or **coup d'état** \kū-(,dā-)ˈtā-, ˈkū-(,dā-)ˈtā-, -dā\ *n*, *pl* coups d'état or **coups d'état** \-tā(z), -tā(z)\ [F, lit., stroke of state] (1646): a sudden decisive exercise of force in politics; *esp.* the violent overthrow or alteration of an existing government by a small group

coup de théâtre or **coup de the-atre** \kū-də-tā-ˈātr\ *n*, *pl* coups de théâtre or **coups de theatre** \kū-də-ˈtā-ˈātr\ [F *coup de théâtre*, lit., stroke of theater] (1747) **1**: a sudden sensational turn in a play; also: a sudden dramatic effect or turn of events **2**: a theatrical success

coup d'oeil \kū-ˈdō(r), -ˈdō\ *n*, *pl* coups d'oeil \sma\ [F, lit., stroke of the eye] (1739): a brief survey; GLANCE

cou-pé or **coupe** \kū-ˈpā-, 2 often ˈkūp\ *n* [F *coupé*, fr. pp. of *couper* to cut, strike] (1834) **1**: a four-wheeled closed horse-drawn carriage for two persons inside with an outside seat for the driver in front **2** *usu* *coupe*: a 2-door automobile often seating only two persons; also: one with a tight-spaced rear seat — compare SEDAN

1 cou-ple \ˈkə-pəl\ *n*; “couple of” is often ˈkə-plə(v)\ *n* [ME, pair, bond, fr. OF *copla*, fr. L *copula* bond, fr. *co-* + *apere* to fasten — more at APT] (13c) **1** **a**: a man and woman married, engaged, or otherwise paired **b**: two persons paired together **2**: PAIR, BRACE **3**: something that joins or links two things together: as **a**: two equal and opposite forces that act along parallel lines **b**: a pair of substances that in contact with an electrolyte participate in a transfer of electrons which causes an electric current to flow **4**: an indefinite small number: FEW (< ~ of days ago)

2 cou-ple \ˈkə-pəl\ *vb* **cou-pled**; **cou-pling** \-p(ə-)lɪŋ\ *vt* (13c) **1** **a**: to connect for consideration together **b**: to join for combined effect **2** **a**: to fasten together: LINK **b**: to bring (two electric circuits) into such close proximity as to permit mutual influence **3**: to join in marriage or sexual union ~ *vi* **1**: to unite in sexual union **2**: JOIN **3**: to unite chemically

3 couple *adj* (1924): TWO; also: FEW — used with a (< a ~ drinks)

usage The adjective use of a *couple*, without *of*, has been called nonstandard, but it is not. In both British and American English it is standard before a word (as *more* or *less*) indicating degree (a *couple* more examples of Middle English writing — Charles Barber). Its use before an ordinary plural noun is an Americanism, common in speech and in writing that is not meant to be formal or elevated (the first

couple chapters are pretty good — E. B. White (letter)) (still operated a *couple* wagons for hire — Garrison Keillor). It is most frequently used with periods of time (a *couple* weeks) and numbers (a *couple* hundred) (< a *couple* dozen).

cou-ple-ment \ˈkə-plə-mənt\ *n* [MF, fr. *coupler* to join, fr. L *copulare*, fr. *copula*] (1548) *archaic*: the act or result of coupling

cou-pler \ˈkə-plə(r)-lər\ *n* (1552) **1**: one that couples **2**: a contrivance on a keyboard instrument by which keyboards or keys are connected to play together

cou-plet \ˈkə-plət\ *n* [MF, dim. of *copla*] (1580) **1**: two successive lines of verse forming a unit marked *usu.* by rhythmic correspondence, rhyme, or the inclusion of a self-contained utterance: DISTICH **2**: COUPLE **3**: one of the musical episodes alternating with the main theme (as in a rondo)

cou-pling \ˈkə-plɪŋ (usual for 2), -pə-lɪŋ\ *n* (14c) **1**: the act of bringing or coming together: PAIRING; *specif*: sexual union **2**: a device that serves to connect the ends of adjacent parts or objects **3**: the joining of or the part of the body that joins the hindquarters to the forequarters of a quadruped **4**: a means of electric connection of two electric circuits by having a part common to both

cou-pon \ˈkū-pən, ˈkyū-ˈn\ *n* [F, fr. OF, piece, fr. *couper* to cut — more at COPE] (1822) **1**: a statement of due interest to be cut from a bearer bond when payable and presented for payment; also: the interest rate of a coupon **2**: a form surrendered in order to obtain an article, service, or accommodation: as **a**: one of a series of attached tickets or certificates often to be detached and presented as needed **b**: a ticket or form authorizing purchases of rationed commodities **c**: a certificate or similar evidence of a purchase redeemable in premiums **d**: a part of a printed advertisement to be cut off to use as an order blank or inquiry form or to obtain a discount on merchandise

cou-pon-ing \ˈkū-pə-nɪŋ, ˈkyū-ˈn\ *n* (1954): the distribution or redemption of coupons

cou-rage \ˈkōr-ij, ˈkō-rɪj\ *n* [ME *corage*, fr. OF, fr. *cuor* heart, fr. L *cor* — more at HEART] (14c): mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty

syn COURAGE, METTLE, SPIRIT, RESOLUTION, TENACITY mean mental or moral strength to resist opposition, danger, or hardship. COURAGE implies firmness of mind and will in the face of danger or extreme difficulty (the *courage* to support unpopular causes). METTLE suggests an ingrained capacity for meeting strain or difficulty with fortitude and resilience (a challenge that will test your *mettle*). SPIRIT also suggests a quality of temperament enabling one to hold one's own or keep up one's morale when opposed or threatened (her *spirit* was unbroken by failure). RESOLUTION stresses firm determination to achieve one's ends (the *resolution* of pioneer women). TENACITY adds to RESOLUTION implications of stubborn persistence and unwillingness to admit defeat (held to their beliefs with great *tenacity*).

cou-ra-geous \kə-ˈrā-jəs\ *adj* (14c): having or characterized by courage: BRAVE — **cou-ra-geous-ly** *adv* — **cou-ra-geous-ness** *n*

cou-rante \kū-ˈrānt, -ˈrɑnt\ *n* [MF, fr. *courir* to run, fr. L *currere*] (1586) **1**: a dance of Italian origin marked by quick running steps **2**: music in quick triple time or in a mixture of 3/2 and 3/4 time

cou-reur de bois \kū-ˈrɔr-də-ˈbwa\ *n*, *pl* **coureurs de bois** \sma\ [CanF, lit., woods runner] (1700): a French or métis trapper of No. America and *esp.* of Canada

cou-rette \kū-ˈzhet\ *n* [F, dim. of *course* gourd, fr. L *cucurbita*] (1931) *chiefly Brit*: ZUCCHINI

cou-rier \kū-ˈrɪər, ˈkōr-ē-, ˈkō-rē-\ *n* [MF *courrier*, fr. OIt *corriere*, fr. *correre* to run, fr. L *currere*] (1579) **1**: MESSENGER: as **a**: a member of a diplomatic service entrusted with bearing messages **b** (1): an espionage agent transferring secret information (2): a runner of contraband **c**: a member of the armed services whose duties include carrying mail, information, or supplies **2**: a traveler's paid attendant; *esp.* a tourists' guide employed by a travel agency

course \kōrs, ˈkōrs\ *n* [ME, fr. OF, fr. L *cursum*, fr. *currere* to run — more at CAR] (14c) **1**: the act or action of moving in a path from point to point **2**: the path over which something moves or extends: as **a**: RACECOURSE **b** (1): the direction of travel of a vehicle (as a ship or airplane) *usu.* measured as a clockwise angle from north; also: the projected path of travel (2): a point of the compass **c**: WATERCOURSE **d**: GOLF COURSE **3** **a**: accustomed procedure or normal action (the law taking its ~) **b**: a chosen manner of conducting oneself; way of acting (our wisest ~ is to retreat) **c** (1): progression through a development or period or a series of acts or events (2): LIFE HISTORY, CAREER **4**: an ordered process or succession: as **a**: a number of lectures or other matter dealing with a subject; also: a series of such courses constituting a curriculum (< a premed ~) **b**: a series of doses or medications administered over a designated period **5** **a**: a part of a meal served at one time **b**: LAYER: *esp.* a continuous level range of brick or masonry throughout a wall **c**: the lowest sail on a square-rigged mast — **in due course**: after a normal passage of time; in the expected or allotted time — **of course** **1**: following the ordinary way or procedure **2**: as might be expected

2 course *vb* **coursed**; **cour-sing** *vt* (15c) **1**: to follow close upon: PURSUE **2** **a**: to hunt or pursue (game) with hounds **b**: to cause (dogs) to run (as after game) **3**: to run or move swiftly through or over: TRAVERSE (jets *coursed* the area daily) ~ *vi* **1**: to run or pass rapidly along or as if along an indicated path (blood *coursing* through the veins)

course of study (1781) **1**: CURRICULUM **2**: COURSE 4a

1 cour-ser \ˈkōr-sər, ˈkōr-\ *n* [ME, fr. MF *coursier*, fr. OF *course* course, run] (14c): a swift or spirited horse: CHARGER

2 cour-ser *n* (1600) **1**: a dog for coursing **2**: one that courses: HUNTSMAN **3**: any of various Old World birds (subfamily *Cursoriinae* of the family *Glaucolidae*) noted for their speed in running

course-ware \ˈkōrs-ˈwar, ˈkōrs-, ˈwər\ *n* (1972): educational software

course-ing \ˈkōrs-ɪŋ\ *n* (1538) **1**: the pursuit of running game with dogs that follow by sight instead of by scent **2**: the act of one that courses

1 court \kōrt, ˈkōrt\ *n*, *often attrib* [ME, fr. OF, fr. L *cohort-*, *cohors* enclosure, group, retinue, cohort, fr. *co-* + *-hort-*, *-hors* (akin to *hortus* garden) — more at YARD] (12c) **1** **a**: the residence or establishment of a sovereign or similar dignitary **b**: a sovereign's formal assembly of councillors and officers **c**: the sovereign and officers and advisers who are the governing power **d**: the family and retinue of a sovereign