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something. **9.** to get authority, license, power, etc., fulfilling required conditions, taking an oath, etc., to demonstrate the required ability in an preliminary contest: *He qualified in the trials.* to fire a rifle or pistol on a target range for a score enough to achieve a rating of marksman, sharpshooter, or expert. **12.** *Mil.* to pass a practical test in military. **13.** *Law.* to perform the actions necessary to give legal power or capacity: *By filing a bond and taking an oath he qualified as executor.* [1525-35; < ML *qualificare*, equiv. to *L* *qualis* (of what sort) + *-ificāre*] —*qual-i-fi-ca-to-ry* (kwol'ē fi kə tōr'ē, -tōr'ē), —*qual-i-fy* /ing-ly, *adv.*

qual-ify (kwol'ē fī), *v.t.*, —*fied*, —*fy-ing*. **1.** fit, suit, adapt, prepare, equip. **2.** narrow, restrict. **See** *modify*. **4.** meliorate, soften, temper, restrain. **5.** designate, label.

qualitative (kwol'ē tā'tiv), *adj.* pertaining to and with quality or qualities. [1600-10; < LL *qualitativus*, equiv. to *qualitāt-* (s. of *qualitas*) *QUALITY* + *-ivus*] —*qual-i-ta-tive-ly*, *adv.*

qualitative analysis, *Chem.* the analysis of a substance in order to ascertain the nature of its chemical constituents. Cf. *quantitative analysis*. [1835-45]

qual-ity (kwol'ē tē), *n.*, *pl.* —*ties*, *adj.* —*n.* **1.** an essential or distinctive characteristic, property, or attribute, the chemical qualities of alcohol. **2.** character or nature, as belonging to or distinguishing a thing: *the quality of a sound*. **3.** character with respect to fineness, grade of excellence: *food of poor quality; silks of fine quality*. **4.** high grade; superiority; excellence: *wood of quality*. **5.** a personality or character trait: *her kindness is one of her many good qualities*. **6.** native excellence or superiority. **7.** an accomplishment or attainment. **8.** good or high social position: *a man of quality*. **9.** the superiority or distinction associated with high social position. **10.** Acoustics, the texture of a tone, dependent on its overtone content, that distinguishes it from others of the same pitch and loudness. **11.** Phonetics, the color, or timbre, that characterizes a particular vowel sound. **12.** Logic, the character of a proposition (affirmative or negative). **13.** Thermodynam., the proportion or percentage of vapor in a mixture of liquid and vapor, as wet steam. **14.** social status or position. **15.** a person of high social position: *He's quality, that one is*. **16.** of or having superior quality: *quality paper*. **17.** producing or providing products or services of high quality or merit: *a quality publisher*. **18.** of or occupying high social status: *a quality family*. **19.** marked by a concentrated expenditure of involvement, concern, or commitment: *Counselors are urging that working parents try to spend more quality time with their children.* [1250-1300; ME *qualite* < OF *qualitas*, equiv. to *qual* (of what sort) + *-itas* -ivus] —*qual-i-ty-less*, *adj.*

QUALITY ATTRIBUTES

QUALITY agrees in meaning a particular characteristic of a person or thing. A QUALITY is a characteristic, innate or acquired, that, in some particular, determines the nature and behavior of a person or thing: *naturalness as a quality of the quality of meat*. An ATTRIBUTE was originally a quality attributed, usually to a person or something personified; more recently it has meant a fundamental or innate characteristic: *an attribute of God; attributes of a logical mind*. PROPERTY applies only to things; it means a characteristic belonging specifically in the constitution of, or found (invariably) in, the behavior of a thing: *physical properties of uranium or of limestone*. **3.** nature, kind, grade, sort, condition.

quality circle, a group of workers performing similar duties who meet periodically to discuss work-related problems, offer suggestions for improved production or product quality, etc. [1975-80]

quality control, a system for verifying and maintaining a desired level of quality in a product or process by careful planning, use of proper equipment, continued inspection, and corrective action as required. [1930-35]

quality-of-life (kwol'ē tē əv lif'), *adj.* affecting the quality of urban life: *such quality-of-life crimes as fare-ditching and graffiti writing*. [1940-45]

quality paperback. See *trade paperback*.

quality point, *Educ.* See *grade point*.

quality point average, *Educ.* See *grade point average*. [1970-75]

quality time, time devoted exclusively to nurturing a cherished person or activity. [1985-90]

quail (kwām, kwōm), *n.* **1.** an uneasy feeling or pang of conscience as to conduct; compunction: *He has no quails about lying*. **2.** a sudden feeling of apprehensive nervousness; misgiving: *a sudden quail about the success of the venture*. **3.** a sudden sensation or onset of faintness or illness, esp. of nausea. [1520-30; orig. uncert.]

quail-ish (kwā'mish, kwō'mē'), *adj.* **1.** tending to have, or having, quails. **2.** nauseous; nauseated. **3.** of the nature of a quail. **4.** likely to cause quails. [1540-50; *QUAIL* + *-ish*] —*quail-ish-ly*, *adv.* —*quail-ish-ness*, *n.*

quamash (kwom'ash, kwē mēsh'), *n.* *camaas*.

quam-min (kwā'min), *n.* a male day name for Saturday. See under *day name*. Also, *Qua-me* (kwā'me).

quanah (kwā'nə), *n.* (Quannah Parker), 1845?-1911, Comanche leader.

quandary (kwon'də rē, -drē), *n.*, *pl.* —*ries*. a state of perplexity or uncertainty, esp. as to what to do; dilemma. [1570-80; perh. fancifully < *L* *quandō* (when) + *-āre* inf. (fix)] —*See* *predicament*.

quandong (kwon'dong'), *n.* **1.** an Australian tree, *Acacia acuminatus*, bearing a fruit with an edible, nutlike seed. **2.** the fruit, or the seed or nut. Also, *quandong*, *quandong*. [1830-40; < Wiradjuri *gunandhā*]

quanta or *quantum mechanics*. [1915-20; *QUANT(UM)* + *-AL*]

quantic (kwon'tik), *n.* *Math.* a rational, integral, homogeneous function of two or more variables. [1850-55; < *L* *quant(us)* how much + *-ic*]

Quantico (kwon'ti kō'), *n.* a U.S. Marine Corps base and development and education command in NE Virginia, NE of Fredericksburg on the Potomac River.

quantifier (kwon'ti fī), *n.* **1.** Logic, an expression, as "all" or "some," that indicates the quantity of a proposition. Cf. *existential quantifier, universal quantifier*. **2.** a word, esp. a modifier, that indicates the quantity of something. [1875-80; *QUANTIFY* + *-ER*]

quantify (kwon'ti fī), *v.t.*, —*fied*, —*fy-ing*. **1.** to determine, indicate, or express the quantity of. **2.** Logic, to make explicit the quantity of (a proposition). **3.** to give quantity to (something regarded as having only quality). [1830-40; < ML *quantificāre*, equiv. to *quant(us)* how much + *-ificāre* -ify] —*quant-i-fi-able*, *adj.* —*quant-i-fi-a-bly*, *adv.* —*quant-i-fi-ca-tion*, *n.*

quantile (kwon'til, -til), *n.* *Statistics*. one of the class of values of a variate that divides the total frequency of a sample or population into a given number of equal proportions. Cf. *decile, percentile, quartile, quintile*. [1935-40; *QUANT(UM)* + *-ile* *n.* suffix, on the model of PERCENTILE]

quantitate (kwon'ti tāt'), *v.t.*, —*tated*, —*tating*. to determine the quantity of, esp. with precision. [1955-60; *QUANTIFY* + *-ATE*'] —*quant-i-ta-tion*, *n.*

quantitative (kwon'ti tā'tiv), *adj.* **1.** that is or may be estimated by quantity. **2.** of or pertaining to the describing or measuring of quantity. **3.** of or pertaining to a metrical system, as that of classical verse, based on the alternation of long and short, rather than accented and unaccented, syllables. **4.** of or pertaining to the length of a spoken vowel or consonant. [1575-85; < ML *quantitativus*, equiv. to *L* *quantitās* (s. of *quantitas*) *QUANTIFY* + *-ivus* -ive] —*quant-i-ta-tive-ly*, *quant-i-tive-ly*, *adv.* —*quant-i-ta-tive-ness*, *quant-i-tive-ness*, *n.*

quantitative analysis, *Chem.* the analysis of a substance to determine the amounts and proportions of its chemical constituents. Cf. *qualitative analysis*. [1840-50]

quantitative genetics. See *population genetics*.

quantitative inheritance, *Genetics*. the process in which the additive action of numerous genes results in a trait, as height, showing continuous variability. Cf. *polygenic inheritance*. [1925-30]

quantity (kwon'ti tē), *n.*, *pl.* —*ties*. **1.** a particular or indefinite amount of anything: *a small quantity of milk; the ocean's vast quantity of fish*. **2.** an exact or specified amount or measure: *Mix the ingredients in the quantities called for*. **3.** a considerable or great amount: *to extract ore in quantity*. **4.** *Math.* a. the property of magnitude involving comparability with other magnitudes. b. something having magnitude, or size, extent, amount, or the like. c. magnitude, size, volume, area, or length. **5.** *Music*. the length or duration of a note. **6.** Logic, the character of a proposition as singular, universal, particular, or mixed, according to the presence or absence of certain kinds of quantifiers. **7.** that amount, degree, etc., in terms of which another is greater or lesser. **8.** *Pros, Phonetics*, the relative duration or length of a sound or a syllable, with respect to the time spent in pronouncing it; length. **9.** *Law*, the nature of an estate as affected by its duration in time. [1250-1300; ME *quantite* < OF < *L* *quantitas*, equiv. to *quant(us)* how much + *-itas* -ivus]

quantize (kwon'tiz), *v.t.*, —*tized*, —*tizing*. **1.** *Math., Physics*, to restrict (a variable quantity) to discrete values rather than to a continuous set of values. **2.** *Physics*, to change the description of (a physical system) from classical to quantum-mechanical, usually resulting in discrete values for observable quantities, as energy or angular momentum. Also, *esp. Brit.*, *quantise*. [1920-25; *QUANT(UM)* + *-IZE*] —*quant-i-za-tion*, *n.*

quantong (kwon'tong'), *n.* *quandong*.

Quantrell (kwon'trɪl), *n.* *William Clarke*, 1837-65, Confederate guerrilla leader.

quantum (kwon'təm), *n.*, *pl.* —*ta* (-tə), *adv.* —*n.* **1.** quantity or amount: *the least quantum of evidence*. **2.** a particular amount. **3.** a share or portion. **4.** a large quantity; bulk. **5.** *Physics*. a. the smallest quantity of radiant energy, equal to Planck's constant times the frequency of the associated radiation. b. the fundamental unit of a quantized physical magnitude, as angular momentum. —*adj.* **6.** sudden and significant: *a quantum increase in productivity*. [1610-20; *n.* use of neut. of *L* *quantus* how much]

quantum chemistry, the application of quantum mechanics to the study of chemical phenomena.

quantum chromodynamics, *Physics*. a quantum field theory that describes quarks and gluons and their interactions, with the color of the quarks playing a role analogous to that of electric charge. *Abbrev.* QCD Also called *chromodynamics*. Cf. *color* (def. 18). [1975-80]

quantum electrodynamics, *Physics*. the quantum field theory that deals with the electromagnetic field and its interaction with electrons and positrons. *Abbrev.* QED [1925-30]

quantum field theory, *Physics*. any theory in which fields are treated by the methods of quantum mechanics; each field can then be regarded as consisting of particles of a particular kind, which may be created and annihilated. [1945-50]

quantum jump. **1.** *Physics*. an abrupt transition of

mechanics of atoms, molecules, and other physical systems that are subject to the uncertainty principle. *Abbrev.* QM Cf. *nonrelativistic quantum mechanics, relativistic quantum mechanics*. [1920-25] —*quant-tum-mechan-i-cal*, *adj.*

quantum number, *Physics*. **1.** any integer or half of an odd integer that distinguishes one of the discrete states of a quantum-mechanical system. **2.** any number that distinguishes among different members of a family of elementary particles. [1915-20]

quantum optics, the branch of optics dealing with light as a stream of photons, each possessing a quantum of energy proportional to the frequency of light when it is considered as a wave motion.

quantum state, *Physics*. the condition in which a physical system exists, usually described by a wave function or a set of quantum numbers. [1920-25]

quantum statistics, *Physics, Chem.* the branch of statistical mechanics that incorporates quantum mechanics. Cf. *Bose-Einstein statistics, Fermi-Dirac statistics, statistical mechanics*. [1930-35]

quantum sufficite (kwān'tōəm sōf'itē kit; Eng. kwon'təm suf'ə sit), *Latin*. as much as suffices; enough.

quantum theory, *Physics*. **1.** any theory predating quantum mechanics that encompassed Planck's radiation formula and a scheme for obtaining discrete energy states for atoms, as Bohr theory. **2.** any theory that treats certain phenomena by the methods of quantum mechanics: *a quantum theory of gravitation*. [1910-15]

Quantz (kvānts), *n.* *Jo-hann Jo-a-chim* (yō'hän yō'ä-khim), 1697-1773, German flutist and composer; teacher of Frederick the Great.

Quanzhou (chwān'jō'), *n.* *Pinyin*. a seaport in SE Fujian province, in SE China, on Taiwan Strait. 130,000. Also, *Chuanchow*. Formerly, *Tsinkiang*.

Quao (kwā'ō), *n.* a male day name for Thursday. See under *day name*.

Quapaw (kwō'pō'), *n.*, *pl.* —*paws*, (*esp. collectively*) *paw* for **1.** a member of a North American Indian people formerly of Arkansas, now living mostly in northeastern Oklahoma. **2.** the Siouan language of the Quapaw.

quaquaversal (kwā'kwō vūr'səl), *adj.* (of a geological formation) sloping downward from the center in all directions. [1720-30; < *L* *quāquā vers(us)* lit., wheresoever turned, turned everywhere + *-AL*'] —*qua-quaver-sal-ly*, *adv.*

quar, **1.** quarter. **2.** quarterly.

quarantine (kwōr'ən tēn', kwōr'ē-, kwōr'ən tēn', kwōr'-), *n.*, *v.*, —*tin*, —*tin-ing*. —*n.* **1.** a strict isolation imposed to prevent the spread of disease. **2.** a period, originally 40 days, of detention or isolation imposed upon ships, persons, animals, or plants on arrival at a port or place, when suspected of carrying some infectious or contagious disease. **3.** a system of measures maintained by governmental authority at ports, frontiers, etc., for preventing the spread of disease. **4.** the branch of the governmental service concerned with such measures. **5.** a place or station at which such measures are carried out, as a special port or dock where ships are detained. **6.** the detention or isolation enforced. **7.** the place, esp. a hospital, where people are detained. **8.** a period of 40 days. **9.** social, political, or economic isolation imposed as a punishment, as in ostracizing an individual or enforcing sanctions against a foreign state. —*v.t.* **10.** to put in or subject to quarantine. **11.** to exclude, detain, or isolate for political, social, or hygienic reasons. [1600-10; < *It* *quarantina*, var. of *quarantena*, orig. Upper It (Venetian); period of forty days, group of forty, deriv. of *quaranta* forty < *L* *quadrāgintā*] —*quar-an-tin-able*, *adj.* —*quar-an-tin'er*, *n.*

quarantine anchorage, an anchorage for ships awaiting a pratique.

quarantine flag, *Naut.* a yellow flag, designating the letter *Q* in the International Code of Signals; flown by itself to signify that a ship has no disease on board and requests a pratique, or flown with another flag to signify that there is disease on board ship. Also called *yellow flag*. [1870-75]

quark (kwōrk, kwārk), *n.* *Physics*. any of the hypothetical particles with spin 1/2, baryon number 1/3, and electric charge 2/3 or -1/3 that, together with their antiparticles, are believed to constitute all the elementary particles, classed as baryons and mesons; they are distinguished by their flavors, designated as up (*u*), down (*d*), strange (*s*), charm (*c*), bottom or beauty (*b*), and top or truth (*t*), and their colors, red, green, and blue. Cf. *color* (def. 18). **flavor** (def. 5). **quantum chromodynamics, quark model**, (coined in 1963 by U.S. physicist Murray Gell-Mann (b. 1929), who associated it with a word in Joyce's *Finnegans Wake*, read variously as *E quark* croak and *G Quark* curd, (slang) rubbish, tripe)

quark model, *Physics*. a scheme that explains the quantum numbers of all the baryons and mesons by assuming that baryons are composed of three quarks and mesons of a quark and an antiquark, with different combinations of quark and antiquark flavors giving different sets of quantum numbers.

quarkonium (kwōrk kō'ne əm, kwīr-), *n.* *Physics*. a meson composed of a quark and an antiquark of the same flavor. [1975-80; *QUARK* + *-ONIUM*, on the model of *positronium* and similarly named particles]

Quarles (kwōrlz, kwārlz), *n.* *Francis*, 1592-1644, English poet.

Quarnero (*It* kwār ne'rō), *n.* *Gulf of*, an arm of the Adriatic Sea, in NW Yugoslavia.