



Merriam- Webster's Collegiate[®] Dictionary

TENTH EDITION

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green revolution *n* (1968): the great increase in production of food grains (as rice and wheat) due to the introduction of high-yielding varieties, to the use of pesticides, and to better management techniques

green-room \ˈgrēn-rūm, -rūm/ *n* (1701): a room in a theater or concert hall where performers can relax before or after appearances

green-sand \ˌsænd/ *n* (1796): a sedimentary deposit that consists largely of dark greenish grains of glauconite often mingled with clay or sand

greens fee \ˈgrēnz-fee/ *n* (1909): a fee paid for the privilege of playing on a golf course — called also *green fee*

green-shank \ˈgrēn-shank/ *n* (1766): an Old World sandpiper (*Tringa nebularia*) with greenish legs and a slightly upturned bill

green-sick-ness \ˌsɪk-nəs/ *n* (1583): CHLOROSIS — **green-sick** *adj*

green snake *n* (1709): either of two bright green harmless largely insectivorous No. American colubrid snakes (*Opheodrys vernalis* and *O. aestivus*)

green soap *n* (ca. 1840): a soft soap made from vegetable oils and used esp. in the treatment of skin diseases

green-stick fracture \ˈgrēn-stɪk-/ *n* (ca. 1885): a bone fracture in a young individual in which the bone is partly broken and partly bent

green-stone \ˈgrēn-stōn/ *n* (ca. 1784) 1: NEPHRITE 2: any of numerous usu. altered dark green compact rocks (as diorite)

green-stuff \ˌstʌf/ *n* (1851): green vegetation used as foodstuff

green sunfish *n* (ca. 1896): a sunfish (*Lepomis cyanellus*) of the Great Lakes region and southward to the Rio Grande that is largely greenish above with a blue spot on each scale

green-sward \ˌswɔrd/ *n* (1600): turf green with growing grass

green tea *n* (1704): tea that is light in color from incomplete fermentation of the leaf before firing

green thumb *n* (1943): an unusual ability to make plants grow — **green-thumbed** \ˈgrēn-θəmd/ *adj*

green turtle *n* (1657): a large usu. herbivorous sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) of warm waters with a smooth greenish or olive-colored shell

green vegetable *n* (1884): a vegetable whose foliage or foliage-bearing stalks are the chief edible part

green-way \ˈgrēn-wā/ *n* (1966): a corridor of undeveloped land in or near a city that is designed for recreational use

Greenwich mean time \ˈgrɪ-nɪj, -nɪch/ *n*, often *cap* *M&T* [*Greenwich, England*] (1938): the mean solar time of the meridian of Greenwich used as the prime basis of standard time throughout the world — called also *Greenwich time*

green-wing \ˈgrēn-wɪŋ/ *n* (ca. 1889): GREEN-WINGED TEAL

green-winged teal \ˈgrēn-wɪŋ(d)-/ *n* (1792): a small dabbling duck (*Anas crecca*) the male of which has a chestnut head with a green eye patch and a metallic green area on the wing speculum

green-wood \ˈgrēn-wʊd/ *n* (14c): a forest green with foliage

greet \ˈgrɛt/ *vt* [ME *greten*, fr. OE *grētan*; akin to OE *grātan* to weep] (bef. 12c) 1: to address with expression of kind wishes: HAIL 2 *a*: to meet or react to in a specified manner (~ed him with boos) *b*: to occur as a response to (apathy ~ed the plan) 3: to appear to the perception of (a surprising sight ~ed her eyes) — **greeter** *n*

greet *vi* *grat* \ˈgrat/, *grut-ten* \ˈgru-tən/ [ME *greten*, fr. OE *grētan*; akin to ON *grāta* to weep] (bef. 12c) *Scot*: WEEP, LAMENT

greet-ing *n* (bef. 12c) 1: a salutation at meeting 2: an expression of good wishes: REGARDS — usu. used in plural (holiday ~s)

greeting card *n* (1898): a piece of paper or thin paperboard having any of a variety of shapes and formats and bearing a greeting or message of sentiment

greg-a-rine \ˈgrɛ-gə-rɪn/ *n* [ultim. fr. L *gregarius*] (1867): any of a subclass (Gregarina) of parasitic vermiform sporezoan protozoans that occur esp. in insects and other invertebrates — **gregarine** *adj*

gre-gar-i-ous \ˈgrɛ-gə-ɪ-əs, -gə-ɪ-əs/ *adj* [L *gregarius* of a flock or herd, fr. *greg*, *grex* flock, herd] (1668) 1 *a*: tending to associate with others of one's kind: SOCIAL *b*: marked by or indicating a liking for companionship: SOCIABLE *c*: of or relating to a social group 2 *a* of a plant: growing in a cluster or a colony *b*: living in contiguous nests but not forming a true colony — used esp. of wasps and bees — **gre-gar-i-ous-ly** *adv* — **gre-gar-i-ous-ness** *n*

Greg-o-ri-an \ˈgrɛ-gə-rɪ-ən, -gə-rɪ-ən/ *adj* (1642): of or relating to Pope Gregory XIII or the Gregorian calendar

Gregorian *adj* (1653) 1: of or relating to Pope Gregory I 2: of, relating to, or having the characteristics of Gregorian chant

Gregorian *adj* [St. Gregory the Illuminator] (1332, apostle of Armenia) (1955): of or relating to the Armenian national church

Gregorian calendar *n* (ca. 1771): a calendar in general use introduced in 1582 by Pope Gregory XIII as a revision of the Julian calendar, adopted in Great Britain and the American colonies in 1752, marked by the suppression of 10 days or after 1700 11 days, and having leap years in every year divisible by four with the restriction that centesimal years are leap years only when divisible by 400 — see MONTH table

Gregorian chant *n* (1751): a monodic and rhythmically free liturgical chant of the Roman Catholic Church

greige \ˈgrɛɪʒ/ *adj* [F *grège* raw (of silk), fr. It *greggio*] (1926): being in an unbleached undyed state as taken from a loom — used of textiles

grei-sen \ˈgrɛ-zən/ *n* [G] (1878): a crystalline rock consisting of quartz and mica that is common in Cornwall and Saxony

greim-lin \ˈgrɛm-lən/ *n* [origin unknown] (1941): a cause of error or equipment malfunction (as in aircraft) conceived of as a small mischievous gnome

gre-nade \ˈgrɛ-nəd/ *n* [MF, pomegranate, fr. LL *granata*, fr. L, fem. of *granatus* seedy, fr. *granum* grain — more at CORN] (1591): a small missile that contains an explosive or a chemical agent (as tear gas, a flame producer, or a smoke producer) and that is thrown by hand or projected (as by a rifle or special launcher)

gren-a-dier \ˈgrɛn-ə-dɪr/ *n* [F, fr. *grenade* grenade] (1676) 1 *a*: a soldier who carries and throws grenades *b*: a member of a special regiment or corps formerly armed with grenades 2: any of various deep-sea fishes (family Macruridae) that are related to the cods and have an elongate tapering body and compressed pointed tail

gren-a-dine \ˈgrɛ-nə-dɪn, -grɛ-nə-/ *n* [F, fr. *grenade* coarse silk fabric, pomegranate] (1852) 1: an open-weave fabric of various fibers 2: a moderate reddish orange 3: a syrup flavored with pomegranates and used in mixed drinks

Gren-del \ˈgrɛn-dəl/ *n* [OE]: a monstrous man-eating descendant of Cain slain by Beowulf in the Old English poem *Beowulf*

Gresh-am's law \ˈgrɛ-shəmz-/ *n* [Sir Thomas Gresham] (1858): an observation in economics: when two coins are equal in debt-paying value but unequal in intrinsic value, the one having the lesser intrinsic value tends to remain in circulation and the other to be hoarded or exported as bullion; broadly: any process by which inferior products or practices drive out superior ones

Gret-na Green \ˌgrɛt-nə-ˈgrɛn/ *n* [*Gretina Green*, village in Scotland] (1813): a place where many eloping couples are married

Gre-vy's zebra \ˌgrɛ-vɪ-ˈzɛb-/ *n* [Jules Grévy] (1891): a zebra (*Equus grevyi*) of eastern Africa with narrow stripes and a white belly

grew *past* of GROW

grew-some *var* of GRUESOME

grey *var* of GRAY

grey friar *n*, often *cap* *G&F* (14c): a Franciscan friar

grey-hound \ˈgrɛ-haʊnd/ *n* [ME *grehound*, fr. OE *grighund*, fr. *grig* (akin to ON *grey* bitch) + *hund* hound] (bef. 12c): any of a breed of tall slender graceful smooth-coated dogs characterized by swiftness and keen sight and used for coursing game and racing; also: any of several related dogs

grey-lag \ˈgrɛ-lag/ *n* [perh. fr. *gray* + *lag* (last)] (ca. 1713): the common gray wild goose (*Anser anser*) of Europe — called also *greylag goose*

grib-ble \ˈgrɪ-bəl/ *n* [perh. alter. of *grub*] (1838): either of two small marine isopods (*Limnoria lignorum* and *L. tripunctata*) that destroy submerged timber

grid \ˈgrɪd/ *n* [back-formation fr. *gridiron*] (1839) 1: GRATING 2 *a* (1): a perforated or ridged metal plate used as a conductor in a storage battery (2): an electrode consisting of a mesh or a spiral of fine wire in an electron tube (3): a network of conductors for distribution of electric power; also: a network of radio or television stations *b*: a network of uniformly spaced horizontal and perpendicular lines (as for locating points on a map); also: something resembling such a network (a road ~) *c*: GRIDIRON 2; broadly: FOOTBALL 3: the starting positions of cars on a racecourse 4: a device in a photocopying machine which are located the characters to be exposed as the text is composed

grid-der \ˈgrɪ-dər/ *n* (1928): a football player

grid-dle \ˈgrɪ-dl/ *n* [ME *gredil* gridiron, fr. ONF, fr. L *craticulum*, dim. of *cratis* wickerwork — more at HURDLE] (14c): a flat metal surface or pan on which food is cooked by dry heat

griddle cake *n* (1783): PANCAKE

grid-iron \ˈgrɪd-ɪ-ən/ *n* [ME *gredire*] (14c) 1: a grate for broiling food 2: something consisting of or covered with a network 3: a football field

grid-lock \ˈlæk/ *n* (1980) 1: a traffic jam in which a grid of intersecting streets is so completely congested that no vehicular movement is possible 2: a situation resembling a gridlock — **gridlock** *vt*

grief \ˈgrɛf/ *n* [ME *gref*, fr. MF, heavy, grave, fr. (assumed) VL *grevis*, alter. of L *gravis*] (15c) 1 *obs*: GRIEVANCE 2 *a*: deep and poignant distress caused by or as if by bereavement *b*: a cause of such suffering 3 *a*: an unfortunate outcome: DISASTER — used chiefly in the phrase *come to grief* *b*: MISHAP, MISADVENTURE *c*: TROUBLE, ANNOYANCE (enough ~ for one day) *syn* see SORROW

grieve-ance \ˈgrɛ-vən(t)s/ *n* (14c) 1 *obs*: SUFFERING, DISTRESS 2: a cause of distress (as an unsatisfactory working condition) felt to afford reason for complaint or resistance 3: the formal expression of a grievance: COMPLAINT *syn* see INJUSTICE

grievance committee *n* (1927): a committee formed by a labor union or by employer and employees jointly to discuss and where possible to eliminate grievances

griev-ant \ˈvənt/ *n* (1958): one who submits a grievance for arbitration

grieve \ˈgrɛv/ *vb* *grieved*; **griev-ing** [ME *greven*, fr. OF *grever*, fr. L *gravare* to burden, fr. *gravis* heavy, grave; akin to Gk *barys* heavy, Skt *guru*] *vt* (13c): to cause to suffer: DISTRESS ~ *vi*: to feel grief: SORROW — **griev-er** *n*

griev-ous \ˈgrɛ-vəs/ *adj* (13c) 1: causing or characterized by severe pain, suffering, or sorrow (a ~ wound) (a ~ loss) 2: OPPRESSIVE, ONEROUS (~ costs of war) 3: SERIOUS, GRAVE (~ fault) — **griev-ous-ly** *adv* — **griev-ous-ness** *n*

grif-fin or **grif-fon** \ˈgrɪ-fən/ *n* [ME *griffon*, fr. MF *grifon*, fr. *grif*, fr. L *gryphus*, fr. Gk *gryps*, *gryps*] (14c): a mythical animal typically having the head, forepart, and wings of an eagle and the body, hind legs, and tail of a lion

grif-fon \ˈgrɪ-fən/ *n* [F, lit., griffin] (1882) 1: BRUSSELS GRIFFON 2: WIREHAIRIED POINTING GRIFFON

grift \ˈgrɪft/ *vt* [*grift*, *n*, perh. alter. of *grift*] (1915) *slang*: to obtain (money) illicitly (as in a confidence game) — **grift** *n*, *slang* — **grift-er** *n*, *slang*

grig \ˈgrɪg/ *n* [ME *grege*] (1566): a lively light-hearted usu. small or young person

gri-gri *var* of GRIS-GRIS

grill \ˈgrɪl/ *vt* (1668) 1: to broil on a grill; also: to fry or toast on a griddle 2 *a*: to torment as if by broiling *b*: to question intensely (the police ~ed the suspect) — **grill-er** *n*

grill *n* [F *gril*, fr. L *craticulum* — more at GRIDDLE] (1685) 1: a cooking utensil of parallel bars on which food is exposed to heat (as from charcoal or electricity) 2: food that is broiled usu. on a grill — compare MIXED GRILL 3: a usu. informal restaurant or dining room

grill-lage \ˈgrɪ-lɪj/ *n* [F, fr. *griller* to supply with grillwork, fr. *gril*] (1776) 1: a framework of timber or steel for support in marshy or treacherous soil 2: a framework for supporting a load (as a column)

grille or **grill** \ˈgrɪl/ *n* [F *grille*, alter. of OF *greille*, fr. L *craticula*, dim. of *cratis* wickerwork — more at HURDLE] (1686) 1: a grating forming a barrier or screen; esp.: an ornamental one at the front end of an automobile 2: an opening covered with a grille

grill-room \ˈgrɪl-rūm, -rūm/ *n* (1883): GRILL 3

grill-work \ˈgrɪl-wɜrk/ *n* (1896): work constituting or resembling a grille



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nfrontation or threats

nan, fr. ON, pres. of
more at MIND] (13c)

ed; **maun-der-ing**
MBLE 2: to wander
nectedly — **maun-**

saunde ceremony of
fr. OF *mandé*, fr. L
34 — more at MAN-
in commemoration

ms or -lea \ˈlɛ-ə\
is †ab 353 B.C. ruler
tone building with
2: a large gloomy

) 1 a: a moder-
le 2: a dyestuff

[Heb *mēhin*] (ca.
le: EXPERT; also

A. Maverick †1870
1: an unbranded
endent individual

, or inclined to be

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1800] Irish: my

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food is taken by
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b: have permission to (you ~ go now): be free to (a rug on which
children ~ sprawl) — C. E. Silberman — used nearly interchangeably
with *can* c — used to indicate possibility or probability (you ~ be
right) (things you ~ need); sometimes used interchangeably with *can*
(one of those slips that ~ happen from time to time — Jessica Mit-
ford) (copula ~ optionally be deleted — J. D. McCawley); sometimes
used where *might* would be expected (you ~ think from a little dis-
tance that the country was solid woods — Robert Frost) 2 — used in
auxiliary function to express a wish or desire esp. in prayer, imprecation,
or benediction (long ~ he reign) 3 — used in auxiliary function
expressing purpose or expectation (I laugh that I ~ not weep) or con-
tingency (she'll do her duty come what ~) or concession (he ~ be
slow but he is thorough) or choice (the angler ~ catch them with a dip
net, or he ~ cast a large, bare treble hook — Nelson Bryant) 4
: SHALL, MUST — used in law where the sense, purpose, or policy re-
quires this interpretation *usage* see CAN

may \ˈmā\ n [ME, fr. OE *mæg* kinsman, kinswoman, maiden] (bef.
12c) *archaic*: MAIDEN

May \ˈmā\ n [ME, fr. OF & L; OF *mai*, fr. *Maia*, Roman
goddess] (12c) 1: the 5th month of the Gregorian calendar 2 *often*
not cap: the early vigorous blooming part of human life: PRIME 3
: the festivities of May Day 4 *not cap*: a: green or flowering
branches used for May Day decorations b: a plant that yields may:
as (1): HAWTHORN (2): a spring-flowering spirea
ma-ya \ˈmā-yə, -ˈmī-ə\ n [Skt *māyā*] (1788): the sense-world of mani-
fold phenomena held in Vedanta to conceal the unity of absolute being;
broadly: ILLUSION

Maya \ˈmī-ə\ n, pl *Mayas* or *Mayas* [Sp] (1825) 1 a: a Mayan
language of the ancient Maya peoples recorded in inscriptions b: YU-
CATEC *esp*: the older form of that language known from documents of
the Spanish period 2: a member of a group of Indian peoples chiefly
of Yucatán, Belize, and Guatemala whose languages are Mayan

Mayan \ˈmī-ən\ n (1900) 1: a member of the peoples speaking Ma-
yan languages 2: an extensive language family of Central America
and Mexico — *Mayan adj*

Mayanist \ˈmī-ə-nist\ n (1950): a specialist in Mayan culture and
history

may-ap-ple \ˈmā-ə-pəl\ n [*May*] (ca. 1733): a No. American herb
(*Podophyllum peltatum*) of the barberry family with a poisonous root-
stock, one or two large-lobed peltate leaves, and a single large white
flower followed by a yellow egg-shaped edible fruit; also: its fruit

may-be \ˈmā-bē\ also -ˈmē-ə\ adv (15c): PERHAPS

maybe n (ca. 1586): UNCERTAINTY

May-day \ˈmā-dā\ [F *māider* help me] (1927) — an international
radio-telephone signal word used as a distress call

May Day \ˈmā-dā\ n (13c): May 1 celebrated as a springtime festival
and in some countries as Labor Day

may-est or mayst \ˈmā-est, -ˈmāst\ *archaic* pres 2d sing of MAY

may-flower \ˈmā-flaʊ-ər\ n (1594): any of various spring-blooming
plants; *esp*: ARBUTUS

may-fly \ˈmā-flī\ n (ca. 1653): any
of an order (Ephemeroptera) of
insects with an aquatic nymph and a
short-lived fragile adult having
membranous wings and two or
three long caudal styles — called
also *ephemerid*

may-hap \ˈmā-hap, -ˈmā-ə\ adv [fr.
the phrase *may hap*] (ca. 1531)
: PERHAPS

may-hem \ˈmā-hem, -ˈmā-əm\ n
[ME *mayme*, fr. AF *māim*, fr.
OF, loss of a limb, fr. *maynier* to
maim, prob. of Gmc origin; akin to MHG *meiden* gelding, ON *meitha*
to injure] (15c) 1 a: willful and permanent deprivation of a bodily
member resulting in the impairment of a person's fighting ability b
: willful and permanent crippling, mutilation, or disfigurement of any
part of the body 2: needless or willful damage or violence

may-ing \ˈmā-ɪŋ\ n, *often cap* (14c): the celebrating of May Day

maynt \ˈmā-nt, -ˈmānt\ (ca. 1631): may not

mayon \ˈmā-ɔn\ n (ca. 1960): MAYONNAISE

may-on-naise \ˈmā-ɔn-ˈnāz, -ˈmā-ə-ˈnāz\ n [F] (1841): a dressing made of
egg yolks, vegetable oils, and vinegar or lemon juice

may-or \ˈmā-ər, -ˈmā-ər\ *esp before names* [mer] n [ME *maire*, fr. OF,
fr. L *maior* greater — more at MAJOR] (14c): an official elected or ap-
pointed to act as chief executive or nominal head of a city, town, or
borough — *may-or-al* \ˈmā-ər-əl, -ˈmā-ər-əl, -ˈmā-ər-əl\ *adj*

may-or-al-ty \ˈmā-ər-əl-tē, -ˈmā-ər-əl-tē\ n [ME *mairaltē*, fr. MF
mairalté, fr. OF, fr. *maire*] (14c): the office or term of office of a mayor

may-or-ess \ˈmā-ər-əs, -ˈmā-ər-əs\ n (15c) *chiefly Brit* 1: the wife or official
hostess of a mayor 2: a woman holding the office of mayor

may-pole \ˈmā-pōl\ n, *often cap* (1554): a tall flower-wreathed pole
forming a center for May Day sports and dances

may-pop \ˈmā-pāp\ n [alter. of *maracoc*, perh. fr. Virginia Algon-
quian] (1851): a climbing perennial passionflower (*Passiflora incar-
nata*) of the southern U.S. with a large ovoid yellow edible but insipid
berry; also: its fruit

May-time \ˈmā-tīm\ n (14c): the month of May

maz-ard \ˈmā-zərd\ n [obs. E *mazard* mazer, alter. of E *mazer*] (1602)
chiefly dial: HEAD, FACE

maze \ˈmāz\ vt *mazied*; **maz-ing** [ME] (13c) 1 *chiefly dial*: STUPEFY,
DAZE 2: BEWILDER, PERPLEX

maze n (14c) 1 a: a confusing intricate network of passages b
: something intricately or confusingly elaborate or complicated (a ~
of regulations) 2 *chiefly dial*: a state of bewilderment — *maze-like*
\ˈmāz-lik\ *adj*

maz-er \ˈmā-zər\ n [ME, fr. MF *mazere*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG
masar gnarled excrescence on a tree] (14c): a large drinking bowl orig.
of a hard wood

ma-zur-ka \ˈmā-zər-kə, -ˈzür-ə\ also **ma-zour-ka** \ˈzür-ə\ n [Russ, fr.
Pol *mazurek*, fr. *Mazury* Masuria, region of NE Poland] (1818) 1: a
Polish folk dance in moderate triple measure 2: music for the ma-
zurka or in its rhythm usu. in moderate 3/4 or 3/8 time

mazy \ˈmā-zē\ (1579): resembling a maze

ˈmaz-zard \ˈmā-zərd\ n [origin unknown] (1578): SWEET CHERRY; *esp*
: wild or seedling sweet cherry used as a rootstock for grafting

ˈmazzard var of MAZARD

mbi-ra \ˈem-ˈbī-ə\ n [Shona] (ca. 1911): an African musical instru-
ment that consists of a wooden or gourd resonator and a varying num-
ber of tuned metal or wooden strips that vibrate when plucked

MC \ˈem-ˈsē\ n (1790): MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Mc-Car-thy-ism \ˈmā-kär-thē-i-zəm also -ˈkär-tē-ə\ n [Joseph R.
McCarthy] (1950): a mid-20th century political attitude characterized
chiefly by opposition to elements held to be subversive and by the use
of tactics involving personal attacks on individuals by means of widely
publicized indiscriminate allegations esp. on the basis of unsubstan-
tiated charges — *Mc-Car-thy-ite* \-it\ n or *adj*

Mc-Coy \ˈmā-kōi\ n [alter. of *Mackay* (in the phrase *the real Mackay*),
of unknown origin] (1922): something that is neither imitation nor
substitute — *often used in the phrase the real McCoy*

Mc-In-tosh \ˈmā-kən-ˈtāsh\ n [John McIntosh fl1796 Canad. settler]
(1878): a juicy bright red eating apple with a thin skin, white flesh,
and aromatic slightly tart flavor

M-day \ˈem-dā\ n [mobilization day] (1924): a day on which a mili-
tary mobilization is to begin

me \ˈmē\ *pron, objective case of I* [ME, fr. OE *mē*; akin to OHG *mih* me,
L *me*, Gk *me*, Skt *mā*]

usage Me is used in many constructions where strict grammarians
prescribe I. This usage is not so much ungrammatical as indicative of
the shrinking range of the nominative form: *me* began to replace *I*
sometime around the 16th century largely because of the pressure of
following verb. *Me* occurs in every other position: absolutely (who,
me?), emphatically (*me* too), and after prepositions, conjunctions,
and verbs, including *be* (come with *me*) (you're as big as *me*) (*it's*
me). Almost all usage books recognize the legitimacy of *me* in these
positions, esp. in speech; some recommend *I* in formal and esp. writ-
ten contexts after *be* and after *as* and *than* when the first term of the
comparison is the subject of a verb.

mea cul-pa \ˈmā-ə-ˈkūl-pə, -ˈmā-ə-, -ˈkūl-(ə)pā\ n [L, through my fault]
(1602): a formal acknowledgment of personal fault or error

ˈmead \ˈmed\ n [ME *mede*, fr. OE *medu*; akin to OHG *metu* mead, Gk
methy wine] (bef. 12c): a fermented beverage made of water and
honey, malt, and yeast

ˈmead n [ME *mede*, fr. OE *mæd*] (bef. 12c) *archaic*: MEADOW

mead-ow \ˈme-(j)də\ n, *often attrib* [ME *medwe*, fr. OE *mædw*, oblique
case form of *mæd*; akin to OE *māwan* to mow — more at MOW] (bef.
12c): land in or predominantly in grass; *esp*: a tract of moist low-
lying usu. level grassland — *mead-ow-y* \ˈme-də-wē\ *adj*

meadow beauty n (1840): any of a genus (*Rhexia* of the family Melas-
tomaceae, the meadow-beauty family) of low perennial American herbs
with showy solitary or cymose flowers

meadow fescue n (1794): a tall vigorous perennial European fescue
grass (*Festuca pratensis*) with broad flat leaves widely cultivated for
permanent pasture and hay

meadow grass n (13c): any of various grasses (as of the genus *Poa*)
that thrive in the presence of abundant moisture; *esp*: KENTUCKY BLUE-
GRASS

mead-ow-land \ˈme-dō-ˈlænd, -ˈdā-\ n (1530): land that is or is used for
meadow

mead-ow-lark \ˈme-dō-ˈlärk, -ˈdā-\ n (1611): any of several American
songbirds (genus *Sturnella*) that are streaked brown above and in
northernmost forms have a yellow breast marked with a black crescent

meadow mouse n (1801): any of various voles (*esp*. genus *Microtus*)
that frequent open fields — called also *meadow vole*

meadow mushroom n (1884): a common edible brown-spored agaric
(*Agaricus campestris*) that occurs in moist open organically rich soil
and is often cultivated

meadow nematode n (1946): any of numerous plant-parasitic nema-
tode worms (*esp*. genus *Pratylenchus*) that destructively invade the
roots of plants

meadow rue n (1668): any of a genus (*Thalictrum*) of widely distrib-
uted plants of the buttercup family with compound or compound
leaves

meadow saffron n (1578): AUTUMN CROCUS

meadow spittlebug n (1942): a No. American spittlebug (*Philaenus
spumarius*) that does severe damage esp. to grasses

mead-ow-sweet \ˈme-dō-swēt, -ˈdā-\ n (1530) 1: SPIREA 1; *esp*: a No.
American native or naturalized spirea (as *Spiraea alba* and *S. latifolia*)

2: any of a genus (*Filipendula*) of herbs closely related to the spiraeas

mea-ger or mea-gre \ˈmē-gər\ *adj* [ME *mege*, fr. MF *maigre*, fr. L
macr, *macer* lean; akin to OE *mæger* lean, Gk *makros* long] (14c) 1
: having little flesh : THIN 2 a: lacking desirable qualities (as rich-
ness or strength) (leading a ~ life) b: deficient in quality or quantity
(a ~ diet) — *mea-ger-ly* *adv* — *mea-ger-ness* *n*

syn MEAGER, SCANTY, SCANT, SKIMPY, SPARE, SPARSE mean falling short
of what is normal, necessary, or desirable. MEAGER implies the absence
of elements, qualities, or numbers necessary to a thing's richness,
substance, or potency (a *meager* portion of meat). SCANTY stresses
insufficiency in amount, quantity, or extent (supplies too *scanty* to last
the winter). SCANT suggests a falling short of what is desired or desir-
able rather than of what is essential (in January the daylight hours are
scant). SKIMPY usu. suggests niggardliness or penury as the cause of
the deficiency (tacky housing developments on *skippy* lots). SPARE
may suggest a slight falling short of adequacy or merely an absence of
superfluity (a *spare*, concise style of writing). SPARSE implies a thin
scattering of units (a *spare* population).

ˈmeal \ˈmēl\ n [ME *meel* appointed time, meal, fr. OE *mæl*; akin to
OHG *māl* time, L *metri* to measure — more at MEASURE] (bef. 12c) 1
: an act or the time of eating a portion of food to satisfy appetite 2
: the portion of food eaten at a meal

ˈə\ about \ə\ kitten, F table \ər\ further \ə\ ash \ā\ ace \ā\ mop, mar
\aʊ\ out \ch\ chin \e\ bet \ē\ easy \g\ go \i\ hit \i\ ice \i\ job

\j\ sing \ō\ go \ō\ law \ōi\ boy \th\ thin \th\ the \th\ the \ū\ loot \ū\ foot
\y\ yet \zh\ vision \ā, k, ʰ, æ, œ, u, i, e, ʰ see Guide to Pronunciation

SurfCast Ex. 2064,
Microsoft v. SurfCast IPR2013-00292, page 4

subject of disagreement or litigation *c pl*: the events or circumstances of a particular situation *d*: the subject or substance of a discourse or writing *e*: something of an indicated kind or having to do with an indicated field or situation (this is a serious ~) (as a ~ of policy) (as of faith) *f*: something to be proved in law *g obs*: sensible or serious material as distinguished from nonsense or drollery *h* (1) *obs*: REASON, CAUSE (2): a source esp. of feeling or emotion *i*: PROBLEM, DIFFICULTY *2 a*: the substance of which a physical object is composed *b*: material substance that occupies space, has mass, and is composed predominantly of atoms consisting of protons, neutrons, and electrons, that constitutes the observable universe, and that is interconvertible with energy *c*: a material substance of a particular kind or for a particular purpose (vegetable ~) *d* (1): material (as feces or urine) discharged from the living body (2): material discharged by suppuration *PUS* *3 a*: the indeterminate subject of reality; *esp*: the element in the universe that undergoes formation and alteration *b*: the formless substratum of all things which exists only potentially and upon which form acts to produce realities *4*: a more or less definite amount or quantity (cooks in a ~ of minutes) *5*: something written or printed *6*: MAIL *7 Christian Science*: the illusion that the objects perceived by the physical senses have the reality of substance — **for that matter**: so far as that is concerned — **no matter**: without regard to: irrespective of (points in the same direction *no matter* how it is tilted) — **the matter**: WRONG (nothing's the matter with me) *2 matter* *v* (1530) *1*: to form or discharge pus; SUPPURATE (ing wound) *2*: to be of importance; SIGNIFY **matter of course** (1739): something that is to be expected as a natural or logical consequence **mat-er-of-fact** \ma-tə-rə(v)-fakt/ *adj* (1712): adhering to the unembellished facts; *also*: being plain, straightforward, or unemotional — **mat-ter-of-fact-ly** \-fakt(t)-lē/ *adv* **mat-ter-of-fact-ness** \-fakt(t)-nəs/ *n* **mat-tery** \ma-tə-rē/ *adj* (14c): producing or containing pus or material resembling pus (eyes all ~) **Mat-the-an** or **Mat-thae-an** \ma-'thē-ən, mə-/ *adj* [LL *Matthaeus*] (1897): of, relating to, or characteristic of the evangelist Matthew or the gospel ascribed to him **Mat-thew** \ma-'(th)u-/ *n* [F *Mathieu*, fr. LL *Matthaeus*, fr. Gk *Matthaios*, fr. Heb *Matityahū*] *1*: an apostle traditionally identified as the author of the first Gospel in the New Testament *2*: the first Gospel in the New Testament — see BIBLE table **mat-ting** \ma-'tɪŋ/ *n* (ca. 1847) *1*: material for mats *2*: MATS **matting** *n* [fr. gerund of *mat*] (1854): a dull lusterless surface (as on gilding, metalwork, or satin) **mat-tins** *often cap*, chiefly *Brit* var of MATINS **mat-tock** \ma-'tɒk/ *n* [ME *mattok*, fr. OE *mattuc*] (bef. 12c): a digging and grubbing tool with features of an adze and an ax or pick **mat-tress** \ma-'trɛs/ *n* [ME *materas*, fr. OF, fr. Ar *matrah* place where something is thrown] (14c) *1 a*: a fabric case filled with resilient material (as cotton, hair, feathers, foam rubber, or an arrangement of coiled springs) used either alone as a bed or on a bedstead *b*: an inflatable airtight sack for use as a mattress *2*: a device (as of interwoven brush and poles) used to protect a shoreline, bank, or streambed from erosion **mat-u-rate** \ma-'chə-rāt/ *vb* -rat-ed; -rat-ing (1622): MATURE **mat-u-ration** \ma-'chə-rā-shən/ *n* (1541) *1 a*: the process of becoming mature *b*: the emergence of personal and behavioral characteristics through growth processes *c*: the final stages of differentiation of cells, tissues, or organs *2 a*: the entire process by which diploid gametes are transformed into haploid gametes that includes both meiosis and physiological and structural changes *b*: SPERMIOGENESIS — **mat-u-ration-al** \-shənəl, -shə-nəl/ *adj* **ma-ture** \mə-'tʃər, 'tʃʊər/ *adj* **ma-ture-er**; -est [ME, fr. L *maturus* ripe; akin to L *mane* in the morning, *manus* good] (15c) *1*: based on slow careful consideration (a ~ judgment) *2 a* (1): having completed natural growth and development: RIFE (2): having undergone maturation *b*: having attained a final or desired state (~ wine) *c*: having achieved a low but stable growth rate (paper is a ~ industry) *3 a*: of or relating to a condition of full development *b*: characteristic of or suitable to a mature individual (~ outlook) *4*: due for payment (a ~ loan) *5*: belonging to the middle portion of a cycle of erosion — **ma-ture-ly** *adv* **ma-ture** *vb* **ma-tured**; **ma-tur-ing** *vt* (15c): to bring to maturity or completion ~ *vi* *1*: to become fully developed or ripe *2*: to become due **ma-tu-ri-ty** \mə-'tʃər-ə-tē, -'tʃʊr-/ *n* (15c) *1*: the quality or state of being mature; *esp*: full development *2*: termination of the period that an obligation has to run **ma-tu-ti-nal** \ma-'chū-'tɪ-nəl; mə-'tʃūt-, 'tʃūt-'tɪ-nəl, -'tʃyūt-/ *adj* [LL *matutinalis*, fr. L *matutinus* — more at MATINEE] (ca. 1656): of, relating to, or occurring in the morning: EARLY — **ma-tu-ti-nal-ly** *adv* **mat-zo** or **mat-zoh** \mät-sə/ *also* -(s)ə/ *n*, *pl* **mat-zoth** \-sōt-, -sōth-, -sōs/ or **mat-zos** or **mat-zohs** \-səz-, -səs/ *also* -sōz/ [Yiddish *matse*, fr. Heb *maṣṣāh*] (ca. 1846) *1*: unleavened bread eaten esp. at the Passover *2*: a wafer of matzo **matzo ball** *n* (1952): a small ball-shaped dumpling made from matzo meal **maud-lin** \mōd-lən/ *adj* [alter. of Mary Magdalene; fr. her depiction as a weeping penitent] (1509) *1*: drunk enough to be emotionally silly *2*: weakly and effusively sentimental **mau-gre** \mō-'gər/ *prep* [ME, fr. MF *maugré*, fr. *maugré* displeasure, fr. *mau*, *mal* evil + *gré* pleasure] (13c) *archaic*: in spite of **maul** \mōl/ *n* [ME *malle* mace, *maul*, fr. OF *mail*, fr. L *malleus*; akin to OCS *mlatŭ* hammer, L *molere* to grind — more at MEAL] (13c): a heavy often wooden-headed hammer used esp. for driving wedges; *also*: a tool like a sledgehammer with one wedge-shaped end that is used to split wood **maul** *vt* (13c) *1*: BEAT, BRUISE *2*: MANGLE *3*: to handle roughly — **maul-er** *n* **maul-stick** \mōl-'stɪk/ *n* [part trans. of D *maalstok*, fr. obs. D *malen* to paint + D *stok* stick, stock] (ca. 1658): a stick used by painters as a rest for the hand while working **mau-mau** \mau-'mau/ *vb* **mau-maued**; **mau-mau-ing** *often cap*

both Ms [Mau Mau, anti-white secret society in colonial Kenya] *v* (1970): to intimidate (as an official) by hostile confrontation or threats ~ *vi*: to engage in mau-mauing someone **maun** \mōn-, mən-, mən/ *verb* auxiliary [ME *man*, fr. ON, pres. of *munu* shall, will; akin to OE *gemynd* mind — more at MIND] (13c) chiefly *Scot*: MUST **maun-der** \mōn-dər-, 'mān-/ *vi* **maun-dered**; **maun-der-ing** \-d(ə-)rɪŋ/ [prob. imit.] (1621) *1 dial Brit*: GRUMBLE *2*: to wander slowly and idly *3*: to speak indistinctly or disconnectedly — **maun-der-er** \-dər-ər/ *n* **Maun-dy Thursday** \mōn-dē-, 'mān-/ *n* [ME *maunde* ceremony of washing the feet of the poor on Maundy Thursday, fr. OF *mandé*, fr. L *mandatum* command; fr. Jesus' words in John 13:34 — more at MANDATE] (15c): the Thursday before Easter observed in commemoration of the institution of the Eucharist **mau-so-le-um** \mō-sə-'lē-əm, mō-zə-/ *n*, *pl* -leums or -lea \-'lē-ə/ [ME, fr. L, fr. Gk *mausoleion*, fr. *Mausōlos* Mausolus †ab 353 B.C. ruler of Caria] (15c) *1*: a large tomb; *esp*: a usu. stone building with places for entombment of the dead above ground *2*: a large gloomy building or room **mauve** \mōv-, mōv/ *n* [F, mallow, fr. L *malva*] (1859) *1 a*: a moderate purple, violet, or lilac color *b*: a strong purple *2*: a dyestuff that produces a mauve color — **mauve** *adj* **ma-ven** or **ma-vin** \mā-vən/ *n* [Yiddish *meyvyn*, fr. LHeb *mēbhīn*] (ca. 1952): one who is experienced or knowledgeable: EXPERT; *also*: FREAK *4d* **ma-ver-ick** \mav-'rɪk, 'ma-və-/ *n* [perh. fr. Samuel A. Maverick †1870 Am. pioneer who did not brand his calves] (1867) *1*: an unbranded range animal; *esp*: a motherless calf *2*: an independent individual who does not go along with a group or party **maverick** *adj* (1886): characteristic of, suggestive of, or inclined to be a maverick **ma-vis** \mā-vəs/ *n* [ME, fr. MF *mauvīs*] (14c): SONG THRUSH **ma-your-neen** \mə-'vʊr-nēn/ *n* [Ir *mhuirín*] (1800) *Irish*: my darling **maw** \mō/ *n* [ME, fr. OE *maga*; akin to OHG *mago* stomach, Lith *makas* purse] (bef. 12c) *1*: the receptacle into which food is taken by swallowing: *a*: STOMACH *b*: CROP *2 a*: the throat, gullet, or jaws esp. of a voracious animal *b*: something suggestive of a gaping maw **maw-k-ish** \mō-'kɪʃ/ *adj* [ME *mawke* maggot, fr. ON *matkr* — more at MAGGOT] (ca. 1697) *1*: having an insipid often unpleasant taste *2*: sickly or puerilely sentimental — **maw-k-ish-ly** *adv* — **maw-k-ish-ness** *n* **max** \maks/ *n* (1968): MAXIMUM *1, 2* — **to the max**: to the greatest extent possible **max-i** \mak-sē/ *n*, *pl* **max-is** [max-i] (1967): a long skirt, dress, or coat **max-i- comb form** [maximum] *1*: extra long (maxiskirt) *2*: extra large (maxi-problems) **max-il-la** \mak-'sɪ-lə/ *n*, *pl* **max-il-lae** \-'sɪ-(j)lē-, -lɪ/ or **maxillas** [L, dim. of *mala* jaw] (1676) *1 a*: JAW *b* (1): an upper jaw esp. of humans and other mammals in which the bony elements are closely fused (2): either of the two bones that lie with one on each side of the upper jaw lateral to the premaxilla and that in higher vertebrates bear most of the teeth *2*: one of the first or second pair of mouthparts posterior to the mandibles in insects, myriapods, crustaceans, and closely related arthropods — **max-il-lary** \mak-sə-'lɛr-ē, chiefly *Brit* mak-'sɪ-lə-rē/ *adj* or *n* **max-il-li-ped** \mak-'sɪ-lə-'ped/ *n* [ISV *maxilli-* (fr. L *maxilla*) + *-ped*] (1846): any of the crustacean appendages that comprise the first pair or first three pairs situated next behind the maxillae **max-il-lo-fa-cial** \mak-'sɪ-(j)lō-'fā-shəl, mak-sə-(j)lō-/ *adj* (ca. 1923): of, relating to, or treating the maxilla and the face (~ surgeons) **max-im** \mak-səm/ *n* [ME *maxime*, fr. MF, fr. ML *maxima*, fr. L fem. of *maximus*, superl. of *magnus* large — more at MUCH] (1567) *1*: a general truth, fundamental principle, or rule of conduct *2*: a saying of proverbial nature **max-i-mal** \mak-sə-'māl/ *adj* (1882) *1*: being an upper limit: HIGH-EST *2*: most comprehensive: COMPLETE — **max-i-mal-ly** *adv* **max-i-mal-ist** \-sə-'māl-ɪst/ *n* (1907): one who advocates immediate and direct action to achieve the whole of a program or set of goals **max-i-min** \mak-sə-'mɪn/ *n* [maximum + minimum] (1951): the maximum of a set of minima; *esp*: the largest of a set of minimum possible gains each of which occurs in the least advantageous outcome of a strategy followed by a participant in a situation governed by the theory of games — compare MINIMAX **max-i-mise** *Brit* var of MAXIMIZE **max-i-mize** \mak-sə-'mɪz/ *vi* -mized; -miz-ing (1802) *1*: to increase to a maximum *2*: to make the most of *3*: to find a maximum value of — **max-i-mi-za-tion** \mak-sə-'mā-zā-shən/ *n* — **max-i-miz-er** \mak-sə-'mɪ-zər/ *n* **max-i-mum** \mak-sə-'məm/ *n*, *pl* **max-i-ma** \-sə-'mā/ or **maximums** \-sə-'məmz/ [L, neut. of *maximus*] (1740) *1 a*: the greatest quantity or value attainable or attained *b*: the period of highest, greatest, or utmost development *2*: an upper limit allowed (as by a legal authority) or allowable (as by the circumstances of a particular case) *3*: the largest of a set of numbers; *specif*: the largest value assumed by a real-valued continuous function defined on a closed interval — **max-i-mum** *adj* **maximum likelihood** *n* (1959): a statistical method for estimating population parameters (as the mean and variance) from sample data that selects as estimates those parameter values maximizing the probability of obtaining the observed data *pl* **ma-xixe** \mə-'shɛʃ, -'shɛ-shə/ *n*, *pl* **ma-xi-xes** \-'shɛ-shɛz/ [BrazilP] (1914): a ballroom dance of Brazilian origin that resembles the tango **max-well** \maks-'wel-, -wəl/ *n* [James Clerk Maxwell] (1900): the centimeter-gram-second electromagnetic unit of magnetic flux equal to the flux per square centimeter of normal cross section in a region where the magnetic induction is one gauss: 10⁻⁸ weber **may** \mē/ *verb* auxiliary, *past* might \mɪt/; *pres* sing & *pl* may [ME (1st & 3d sing. pres. indic.), fr. OE *mæg*; akin to OHG *mag* (1st & 3d sing. pres. indic.) have power, am able (infin. *magan*), and perh. to Gk *mēchos* means, expedient] (bef. 12c) *1 a* *archaic*: have the ability to

b: have permission ~ sprawl with can ~ us right) (things you ~ one of those slipp'ford) (copula ~ o used where might tance that the cou auxiliary function tion, or benedictio expressing purpose tency (she'll do slow but he is thornet, or he ~ cas: SHALL MUST ~ t quires this interpre **may** \mä/ *n* [ME (12c) *archaic*: MAID **May** \mä/ *n* [ME, goddess] (12c) *1*: not cap: the early: the festivities of branches used for l as (1): HAWTHORN **may-be** \mä-'bē/ *mi-fold phenomena hel broadly: ILLUSION **Ma-ya** \mi-'ə/ *n*, *p* language of the anc CATEC; *esp*: the old the Spanish period of Yucatán, Belize; **May-an** \mi-'ən/ *n* *yan* languages *2*: and Mexico — **May** **Mayanist** \mi-'ə-ni history **may-ap-ple** \mä-'ə- (Podophyllum peltat stock, one or two l flower followed by a **may-be** \mä-'bē/ *also* **may-be** *n* (ca. 1586) **May-day** \mä-'dä/ *n* radio-telephone sign **May Day** \mä-'dä/ and in some countr **may-est** or **mayst** *n* **may-flower** \mä-'fl plants; *esp*: ARBUTUS **may-fly** \mä-'fl/ *n* (of an order (Eph insects with an aqua short-lived fragile membranous wings three long caudal s also *ephemerid* **may-hap** \mä-'hap, the phrase may hu *n*: PERHAPS **may-hem** \mä-'hɛr [ME *mayme*, fr. OF, loss of a limb, maim, prob. of Gmc to injure] (15c) *1*: member resulting in: willful and perman part of the body *2*: **may-ing** \mä-'ɪŋ/ *n*, *o* **maynt** \mä-'ənt, **mayo** \mä-'dō/ *n* (ca. **may-on-naise** \mä-'əgg yolks, vegetable o **may-or** \mä-'ər, 'mɛ-/ fr. L *maior* greater — pointed to act as chic borough — **may-or-a** **may-or-al-ty** \mä-'ər *mayoralty*, fr. OF, fr. *ma* **may-or-ess** \mä-'ər-əs, hostess of a mayor *2*: **may-pole** \mä-'pōl/ *n* forming a center for M **may-pop** \mä-'pāp/ *n* **quian**] (1851): a clin *nata*) of the southern l berry; *also*: its fruit **May-time** \mä-'tɪm/ *n* **maz-ard** \mä-'zərd/ *n* *chiefly dial*: HEAD, FAC **maze** \mäz/ *v* **mazer** *DAZE* *2*: BEWILDER, PEI **maze** *n* (14c) *1 a*: something intricately of regulations) *2* *chie*, -lɪk/ *adj* **maz-er** \mä-'zər/ *n* [M *masar* gnarled excresc of a hard wood **maz-zur-ka** \mä-'zər-kə, Pol *mazurek*, fr. *Mazur* Polish folk dance in m zurka or in its rhythm u **mazy** \mä-'zē/ *adj* (1575*