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**curvule chair** *n.* A seat with heavy curved legs and no back, reserved for the use of the highest officials in ancient Rome.  
**cur-va-ceous** (*kūr'-vā'/shəs*) *adj.* Having the curves of a full or voluptuous figure. — *cur-va'/ceous+ness n.*  
**cur-vature** (*kūr'-vā'-chōr/-, -char' n.* 1. The act of curving or the state of being curved. 2. *Math.* a. The rate of change in the angle of a tangent that moves over a given arc with respect to the length of the arc. b. The reciprocal of the radius of a curve. 3. *Medic.* A curving or bending, esp. an abnormal one: curvature of the spine. [*ME* < *Lat. curvātūra* < *curvātus*, p.p.t. of *curvāre*, to bend < *curvus*, curved. See *skeer-2\**.]  
**curve** (*kūrv'*) *n.* 1. a. A line that bends in a smooth continuous fashion. b. A surface that bends in a smooth continuous fashion. c. Something characterized by such a line or surface, esp. a contour of the human body. 2. A relatively smooth bend in a road or other course. 3. a. A line representing data on a graph. b. A trend derived from or as if from such a graph. 4. A method of grading students based on relative performance. 5. *Math.* a. The graph of a function on a coordinate plane. b. The intersection of two surfaces in three dimensions. 6. Baseball. A curve ball. 7. *Slang.* To move or deception. — *v.* **curved, curvy-ing, curves.** — *intr.* To trick or to take the shape of a curve. — *tr.* 1. To cause to curve. See *Syns at bend-1*. 2. Baseball. To pitch a curve ball to. 3. To grade students, for example) on a curve. [< *ME*, *curved* < *Lat. curvus*. See *skeer-2\**] — *curv'd+ness n.* — *curvy'ly adv.*  
**curve ball or curve-ball** (*kūr'-vəl'/bɔl' n.* Baseball. A pitched ball that veers or breaks to the left when thrown with the right hand and to the right when thrown with the left hand).  
*idiom.* pitch (or throw) (someone) a curve ball. *Slang.* To mislead; deceive. 2. To cause to be surprised, esp. unpleasantly so.  
**curvet** (*kūr'-vēt'*) *n.* A light leap by a horse, in which both front legs leave the ground just before the forelegs are set down. — *v.* **vet-ted, vet-tet-ing, vets or vet-ed, vet-ing, vets.** — *intr.* 1. To leap in a curvet. 2. To prance; frolic. 3. To cause to leap in a curvet. [*Ital. corvette* < *Oital.* < *Fr. courbette* < *courber*, to curve < *Lat. curvare* < *curvus*, curved. See *skeer-2\**.]  
**curvy** (*kūr'-vī*) *adj.* (*kūr'-vā-lin'/ē-ar*) also *cur-vil'-lin-e-al (-ə)* *adj.* Formed, bounded, or characterized by curved lines. [*Lat. curvus*, curved; see *CURVE* + *LINEAR*.] — *cur-vil'-lin-e-ar'ly adv.*  
**Curzon** (*kūr-'zən*). George Nathaniel. 1859–1925. British politician who served as viceroy of India (1898–1905) and secretary of state for foreign affairs (1919–24).  
**Cuzco** (*koo/'skō*). See Cuzco.  
**cubic** (*kyoo/'sek'*) *n.* A volumetric unit for measuring the flow of liquids, equal to one cubic foot per second.  
**Cush** (*kūsh, kōosh*). In the Bible, the oldest son of Ham. Also KUSH (*kūsh, kōosh*). 1. An ancient region of NE Africa where the biblical descendants of Cush settled; often identified with Ethiopia. 2. An ancient kingdom of Nubia in Ethiopia; flourished from the 11th cent. a.c. to the 4th cent. a.c. — *Cush'th'r' adj.* & *n.*  
**cush** (*k-šhō', kōō'shō'*) *n.* Any of several kinds of winter squash (*Cucurbita mistra*) having a curved neck. [?]  
**a cushing** (*kōosh/'ŋg*). Caleb. 1800–79. Amer. politician and diplomat who negotiated the treaty (1844) that opened five western ports to U.S. trade.  
**H. Harvey Williams**. 1869–1939. Amer. neurologist noted for his study of the brain and the pituitary gland.  
**J. William**. 1732–1810. Amer. jurist; associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court (1789–1810).  
**Cushing's disease** (*kōosh/'ŋg*) *n.* The form of Cushing's syndrome involving the pituitary gland.  
**Cushing's syndrome**. A syndrome caused by an increased secretion of ACTH or by excessive intake of glucocorticosteroids characterized by obesity and weakening of the muscles. [*Harvey Williams CUSHING*.]  
**cushion** (*kōosh-'zn*) *n.* 1. A pad or pillow with a soft filling, used for resting, reclining, or kneeling. 2. Something resilient that serves as a rest, support, or shock absorber. 3. A padded body part. 4. Games. The rim bordering the playing surface of a pool table. 5. A pillow used in lacemaking. 6. Something that mitigates or relieves an adverse effect. — *tr.v.* **-ioned, cushions.** 1. To provide with a cushion. 2. To place or provide with a cushion. 3. To cover or hide (something) with or as with a cushion. 4. To protect as if with cushions. 5. To lessen the effects of. [*ME cushion* < *OFr. coussin* < *VLat. kus* < *Lat. coxa*, hip.] — *cush-ion'y adj.*  
**cush-shit** (*kōō-shīt/'fk*) *n.* A branch of the Afro-Asiatic language family spoken in Somalia, Ethiopia, and northern Kenya. [*Arabic* Beja, Oromo, and Somali. — *Cush'th'r'lc adj.* — *kōōsh'e* (*'e*) *adv.* 1. *Informal.* Making few demands; comfortable: a cushy job. [?] — *cush'th'r'ly adv.* comfortably.  
**cusks** (*koo-'sk*) *n., pl.* cusk or cusks. 1. A food fish (*Brosme brosme*) from Atlantic coastal waters that is related to the cod. 2. Turbot. [*Prob. alteration of usk, codfish, perch.* — *cf. torsk*, var. of Norw. *torsk* < ON *thorskr*. See *ters-*.]  
**cut** (*kət*) *v.* 1. A point or pointed end. 2. *Anat.* a. A pointed

or rounded projection on the chewing surface of a tooth. **b.** A triangular fold or flap of a heart valve. **3.** *Math.* A point at which a curve crosses itself and at which the two tangents to the curve coincide. **4.** *Archit.* The point of intersection of two ornamental arcs or curves. **5.** *Astron.* Either point of a crescent moon. **6.** A transitional point or time, as between two astrological signs. [*Lat. cuspis*, point.]

**cus·pate** (küs'pä't) also **cus·pat·ed** (-pä'tid) *adj.* 1. Having a cusp. **2.** Shaped like a cusp.

**cus·pid** (küs'pid) *n.* A canine tooth. [*< Lat. cuspis*, cuspid-, point.]

**cus·pi·date** (küs'pi-där') also **cus·pi·dat·ed** (-dä'tid) *adj.* 1. Having a cusp. **2.** *Biol.* Terminating in or tipped with a sharp firm point. [*Lat. cuspidatus*, p.p.art. of *cuspidare*, to make pointed *< cuspis*, cuspid-, point.]

**cus·pi·da·tion** (küs'pi-dä'shan) *n.* *Archit.* Decoration with cusps.

**cus·pi·dor** (küs'pi-dör', -dör') *n.* A spittoon. [*Port. < cuspir*, to spit *< Lat. conspuere*, to spit upon *: com-, com- + spuerē, to spit.*]

**cuss** (*küs*) *Informal.* — *intr. & tr.v.* **cussed**, **cuss·ing**, **cuss·es**. To curse or curse at. — *n.* 1. A curse. **2.** An odd or perverse creature. [*Alteration of curse.*]

**cuss·ed** (küs'it) *adj. Informal.* 1. Perverse; stubborn. **2.** Cursed. — **cuss·ed·ly** *adv.* — **cuss·ed·ness** *n.*

**cus·tard** (küs'tärd) *n.* A dish consisting of milk, eggs, flavoring, and sometimes sugar, boiled or baked until set. [*ME crustade*, *custard*, a pie with a crust, prob. *< OProv. croustade*. See *CROUSTADE*.] — **cus'tard·y** *adj.*

**custard apple** *n.* 1. Any of several tropical American trees of the genus *Annona*, esp. *A. reticulata*, having large, nearly heart-shaped edible fruits. **2.** The fruit of any of these trees.

**Cus·ter** (küs'tär'), **George Armstrong**. 1839–76. Amer. soldier who was killed and his troops annihilated by Sioux and Cheyenne warriors at Little Bighorn.

**cus·to·di·al** (kü-stō-dē-al) *adj.* 1. Of or relating to the work of guarding or maintaining. **2.a.** Having custody, esp. of a child. **b.** Of or relating to child custody. **3.** Marked by care and supervision rather than efforts to cure.

**cus·to·di·an** (kü-stō-dē-on) *n.* 1. One in charge of something; a caretaker. **2.** A janitor. — **cus·to·di·an·ship** *n.*

**cus·to·dy** (küs'tō-dē) *n., pl. -dies*. 1. The act or right of guarding, esp. such a right granted by a court. **2.** Care, supervision, and control exerted by one in charge. See *Syns at care*. **3.** The state of being detained or held under guard, esp. by the police: *took the suspect into custody*. [*ME custodie* *< Lat. custōdia* *< custōs*, custōd-, guard.]

**cus·tom** (küs'təm) *n.* 1. A practice followed by people of a particular group or region. **2.** A habitual practice of a person. See *Syns at habit*. **3. Law.** A common tradition or usage so long established that it has the force or validity of law. **4.a.** Habitual patronage. **b.** Habitual customers; patrons. **5.** customs. (*used with a sing. v.*) **a.** A duty or tax imposed on imported and, less commonly, exported goods. **b.** The governmental agency authorized to collect these duties. **c.** The procedure for inspecting goods and baggage entering a country. **6.** Tribute, service, or rent paid by a feudal tenant to a lord. — *adj.* 1. Made to order. **2.** Specializing in the making or selling of made-to-order goods. [*ME custume* *< OFr. costume* *< Lat. consuetūdo*, *consuetūdin-* *< consuevus*, p.p.art. of *consuēscere*, to accustom *: com-, com- + suēscere*, to become accustomed; see *(W)e·\**]

**cus·tom·a·ble** (küs'tə-mə-bal) *adj.* Subject to tariffs.

**cus·tom·ar·y** (küs'tə-mär'ē) *adj.* 1. Commonly practiced, used, or encountered; usual. See *Syns at usual*. **2.** Based on custom or tradition rather than written law or contract. — **cus'tom·ar'ily** (-mär'ē-lē) *adv.* — **cus'tom·ar'i·ness** *n.*

**cus·tom·built** (küs'təm-bilt') *adj.* Built according to the specifications of the buyer.

**cus·tom·er** (küs'tə-mər) *n.* 1. One that buys goods or services. **2. Informal.** An individual with whom one must deal.

**cus·tom·house** (küs'təm-hous') also **cus·toms·house** (-təmz-) *n.* A governmental building or office where customs are collected and ships are cleared for entering or leaving the country.

**cus·tom·ize** (küs'tə-miz') *tr.v.* -ized, -iz·ing, -iz·es. To make or alter to individual or personal specifications. — **cus'tom·i·za·tion** (-iz-ä'shan) *n.* — **cus'tom·iz'er** *n.*

**cus·tom·made** (küs'təm-mäd') *adj.* Made according to the specifications of an individual purchaser.

**customs union** *n.* An international association organized to eliminate customs restrictions between member nations and establish a uniform tariff policy toward nonmember nations.

**cut** (kit) *v.* cut, cut·ting, cuts. — *tr.* 1. To penetrate with a sharp edge; strike a narrow opening in. **2.** To separate into parts with or as if with a sharp-edged instrument; sever. **3.** To sever the edges or ends of; shorten: *cut one's hair*. **4.** To reap; harvest: *cut grain*. **5.** To fell by sawing; hew. **6.** To have (a new tooth) grow through the gums. **7.** To form or shape by severing or incising. **8.a.** To form by penetrating, probing, or digging: *cut a trench*. **b.** To exhibit the appearance or give the impression of: *cuts a fine figure*. **9.** To separate from a main

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ē pet	ū cut
ē be	ûr urge
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Stress marks:  
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