

Merriam- Webster's Collegiate[®] Dictionary

ELEVENTH
EDITION



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atilt \ə-tilt\ *adv* or *adj* (1562) 1: in a tilted position 2: with lance in hand (run ~ at death — Shak.)

atint-gle \ə-ting-gol\ *adj* (1855): tingling esp. with excitement

ation *n* suffix [L *-ation-*, *-atio*, fr. *-a-*, stem vowel of *talkative* + *-tion-*, *-tio*, *n*. suffix]: action or process (*flirtation*): something connected with an action or process (*discoloration*)

-ative *adj* suffix [L *-ativus*, fr. *-atus* + *-ivus* -ive]: of, relating to, or connected with (*authoritative*): tending to (*talkative*)

At-ka mackerel \at-ka-, -tāt- *n* [Atka Island, Alaska] (1888): a greenling (*Pleuragrammus monopterygius*) that is a food fish found in Alaska and adjacent regions

Atl *abbr* Atlantic

At-lan-te-an \at-lan-tē-an, at-lan-tē-*adj* (1667): of, relating to, or resembling Atlas: **STRONG**

Atlantean *adj* (ca. 1828): of or relating to Atlantis

At-lan-tic \at-lan-tik, -tā-*adj* (1594) 1 *a*: of, relating to, or found in, on, or near the Atlantic Ocean 2 *b*: of, relating to, or found on or near the east coast of the U.S. 2: of or relating to the nations that border the Atlantic Ocean (the ~ community)

Atlantic croaker *n* (ca. 1499): a small croaker (*Micropogonias undulatus*) of the Gulf coast and the Atlantic coast

At-lan-tic-cism \at-lan-tis-siz-*n* (1950): a policy of military cooperation between European powers and the U.S. — **At-lan-tic-cist** \-sist-*n*

Atlantic puffin *n* (1931): a small black-and-white puffin (*Fratercula arctica*) of the northern coastal parts of the No. Atlantic Ocean that has a triangular bill with a broad red or yellow tip

Atlantic salmon *n* (1884): **SALMON** 1*a*

Atlantic time *n* (1880): the time of the fourth time zone west of Greenwich that includes the Canadian Maritime Provinces, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands

Atlantic white cedar *n* (1948): **WHITE CEDAR** 1

At-lan-tis \at-lan-tas, -tā-*n* [L, fr. Gk. fr. *Atlas*] (1602): a fabled island in the Atlantic that according to legend sank beneath the sea

at-large \at-lār-*adj* (1969): relating to or being a political representative who is elected to serve an entire area rather than one of its subdivisions (an ~ city councilor) (*an ~ election*)

at-las \at-las-*n* [L *Atlantis*, *Atlas*, fr. Gk.] (1513) 1 *cap*: a Titan who for his part in the Titans' revolt against the gods is forced by Zeus to support the heavens on his shoulders 2 *cap*: one who bears a heavy burden 3 *a*: a bound collection of maps often including illustrations, informative tables, or textual matter 4: a bound collection of tables, charts, or plates 4: the first vertebra of the neck 5 *pl usu* at-lan-tis \at-lan-(t)ēz, -tā-: a male figure used like a caryatid as a supporting column or pilaster — called also *telamon*

at-lat \at-lāt-*n* [Nahuatl *atlātl*] (1871): a device for throwing a spear or dart that consists of a rod or board with a projection (as a hook) at the rear end to hold the weapon in place until released

At-til \at-tīl-*n* [ON] (1876): a king of the Huns figuring in Germanic legend and corresponding to the historical Attila

atm *abbr* atmosphere; atmospheric

ATM \ā-(t)ē-em-*n* (1976): a computerized electronic machine that performs basic banking functions (as handling check deposits or issuing cash withdrawals) — called also *automated teller machine*, *automatic teller*, *automatic teller machine*

ATM *abbr* asynchronous transfer mode

at-man \āt-mān, -mān-*n*, often *cap* [Skt *ātman*, lit., breath, soul; akin to OE *ān* (breath)] (1785) 1 *Hinduism*: the innermost essence of each individual 2 *Hinduism*: the supreme universal self: **BRAHMA** 2

at-mo-sphere \at-mō-sfīr-*n* [NL *atmosfera*, fr. Gk *atmos* vapor + L *sphaera* sphere] (1677) 1 *a*: the gaseous envelope of a celestial body (as a planet) 2: the whole mass of air surrounding the earth 2: the air of a locality 3: a surrounding influence or environment (*an ~ of hostility*) 4: a unit of pressure equal to the pressure of the air at sea level or approximately 14.7 pounds per square inch (101,325 pascals) 5 *a*: the overall aesthetic effect of a work of art 6: an intriguing or singular tone, effect, or appeal (*an inn with ~*) — **at-mo-sphered** \-sfīrd-*adj*

at-mo-spher-ic \at-mō-sfīr-ik, -sfer-*adj* (ca. 1735) 1 *a*: of, relating to, or occurring in the atmosphere (*~ dust*) 2: resembling the atmosphere: **AIRY** 2: having, marked by, or contributing aesthetic or emotional atmosphere (*an ~ inn*); also: marked by an emphasis on impression or tone — **at-mo-spher-i-cal-ly** \-i-k(ə)-lē-*adv*

at-mo-spher-ics \-iks-*n pl* (1905) 1: audible disturbances produced in radio receiving apparatus by atmospheric electrical phenomena (as lightning); also: the electrical phenomena causing these disturbances 2: actions (as official statements) intended to create or suggest a particular atmosphere or mood in politics and esp. international relations; also: the mood so created or suggested 3: realistic detail added (as to a literary work) to create a mood

at no *abbr* atomic number

atoll \ā-tōl, -tāl, -tā-*n* [Divehi (Indo-Aryan language of the Maldives Islands) *atōh*] (1625): a coral island consisting of a reef surrounding a lagoon

at-om \ā-təm-*n* [ME, fr. L *atomus*, fr. Gk *atomos*, fr. *atomos* indivisible, fr. *a-* + *temein* to cut] (15c) 1: one of the minute indivisible particles of which according to ancient materialism the universe is composed 2: a tiny particle: **BIT** 3: the smallest particle of an element that can exist either alone or in combination 4: the atom considered as a source of vast potential energy

atom-ic \ə-tā-mik-*adj* (1678) 1 *a*: of, relating to, or concerned with atoms (*~ physics*) 2: **NUCLEAR** 2 (*~ energy*) 2 *a*: marked by acceptance of the theory of atomism 3: **ATOMIC** 2 3: **MINUTE** 4 of a chemical element: existing in the state of separate atoms — **atom-i-cal-ly** \-mi-k(ə)-lē-*adv*

atomic bomb *n* (1917) 1: a bomb whose violent explosive power is due to the sudden release of energy resulting from the splitting of nuclei of a heavy chemical element (as plutonium or uranium) by neutrons in a very rapid chain reaction — called also *atom bomb* 2: a nuclear weapon (as a hydrogen bomb)

atomic clock *n* (1938): a precision clock that depends for its operation

on an electrical oscillator regulated by the natural vibration frequencies of an atomic system (as a beam of cesium atoms)

atomic force microscope *n* (1986): an instrument used for mapping the atomic-scale topography of a surface by means of the repulsive electronic forces between the surface and the tip of a microscopic probe moving above the surface — *abbr.* *AFM*

atomic mass *n* (1874): the mass of an atom usu. expressed in atomic mass units; also: **ATOMIC WEIGHT**

atomic mass unit *n* (ca. 1942): a unit of mass for expressing masses of atoms, molecules, or nuclear particles equal to $\frac{1}{12}$ the mass of a single atom of the most abundant carbon isotope ^{12}C — called also *dalton*

atomic number *n* (1821): an experimentally determined number characteristic of a chemical element that represents the number of protons in the nucleus which in a neutral atom equals the number of electrons outside the nucleus and that determines the place of the element in the periodic table — see **ELEMENT** table

atomic reactor or **atomic pile** *n* (1945): **REACTOR** 3*b*

atomic theory *n* (1814) 1: a theory of the nature of matter: all material substances are composed of minute particles or atoms of a comparatively small number of kinds and all the atoms of the same kind are uniform in size, weight, and other properties 2: any of several theories of the structure of the atom; esp: one based on experimentation and theoretical considerations holding that the atom is composed essentially of a small positively charged comparatively heavy nucleus surrounded by a comparatively large arrangement of electrons

atomic weight *n* (1820): the mass of one atom of an element; *specific*: the average mass of an atom of an element as it occurs in nature that is expressed in atomic mass units — see **ELEMENT** table

at-om-ize, **at-om-is-er** *Brit var* of **ATOMIZE**, **ATOMIZER**

at-om-ism \ā-tō-mi-zəm-*n* (1678) 1: a doctrine that the physical or physical and mental universe is composed of simple indivisible minute particles 2: **INDIVIDUALISM** 1 — **at-om-ist** \-mist-*n*

at-om-is-tic \ā-tō-mis-tik-*adj* (1809) 1: of or relating to atoms or atomism 2: composed of many simple elements; also: characterized by or resulting from division into unconnected or antagonistic fragments (*an ~ society*) — **at-om-is-ti-cal-ly** \-ti-k(ə)-lē-*adv*

at-om-ize \ā-tō-mi-zē-*vt* -ized, -iz-ing (1845) 1: to treat as made up of many discrete units 2: to reduce to minute particles or to a fine spray 3: **DIVIDE**, **FRAGMENT** (*an atomized society*); also: to deprive of meaningful ties to others (*atomized individuals*) 4: to subject to attack by nuclear weapons — **at-om-i-za-tion** \ā-tō-mi-zā-shən-*n*

at-om-iz-er \ā-tō-mi-zēr-*n* (1865): an instrument for atomizing usu. a perfume, disinfectant, or medicament

atom smasher *n* (1937): **ACCELERATOR** *d*

at-o-my \ā-tō-mē-*n*, *pl* -mies [irreg. fr. L *atom*, *pl.* of *atomus* atom] (1591): a tiny particle: **ATOM**, **MITE**

aton-al \ā-tō-nəl, (j)ā-*adj* [a + *tonal*] (1922): marked by avoidance of traditional musical tonality; esp: organized without reference to key or tonal center and using the tones of the chromatic scale impartially — **aton-al-ism** \ā-tō-ni-zəm-*n* — **aton-al-ist** \-list-*n* — **ato-nal-i-ty** \ā-tō-na-lē-tē, -tē-*n* — **aton-al-ly** \ā-tō-nā-lē, (j)ā-*adv*

atone \ā-tōn-*vb* atoned; aton-ing [ME, to become reconciled, fr. *at* on in harmony, fr. *at* + *on* one] *vt* (1574) 1 *obs*: **RECONCILE** 2: to supply satisfaction for: **EXPIATE** ~ *vi*: to make amends (~ for sins)

atone-ment \ā-tōn-mənt-*n* (1513) 1 *obs*: **RECONCILIATION** 2: the reconciliation of God and humankind through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ 3: reparation for an offense or injury: **SATISFACTION** 4 *Christian Science*: the exemplifying of human oneness with God

aton-ic \ā-tā-nik, (j)ā-*adj* (1792) 1: characterized by atony 2: uttered without accent or stress

at-o-ny \ā-tō-nē-*n* [LL *atonia*, fr. Gk, fr. *atonos* without tone, fr. *a-* + *tonos* tone] (1693): lack of physiological tone esp. of a contractile organ

atop \ə-tāp-*adv* or *adj* (1650): on, to, or at the top

atop *prep* (1655): on top of

at-o-by \ā-tā-pē-*n* [Gk *atopia* uncommonness, fr. *atopos* out of the way, uncommon, fr. *a-* + *topos* place] (1923): a prob. hereditary allergy characterized by symptoms (as asthma, hay fever, or hives) produced upon exposure esp. by inhalation to the exciting environmental antigen — **atop-ic** \ā-tā-pik, -tō-*adj*

-ator *n* suffix [L *-ator*, fr. *-a-*, stem vowel of 1st conj. + *-tor*, agent suffix]: one that does (*totalizator*)

ator-va-stat-in \ā-tōr-vā-stā-tēn, -tōr-vā-stā-*n* [ator- (perh. alter. of lipid control) + *vastatin* (as in *lovastatin*)] (1994): a statin administered orally in the form of its hydrated calcium salt ($\text{C}_{33}\text{H}_{34}\text{FN}_2\text{O}_5$); $\text{Ca}_3\text{H}_2\text{O}$ to lower lipid levels in the blood

ATP \ā-tē-pē-*n* [adenosine triphosphate] (1939): a phosphorylated nucleotide $\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_5\text{O}_{13}\text{P}_3$ composed of adenosine and three phosphate groups that supplies energy for many biochemical cellular processes by undergoing enzymatic hydrolysis esp. to ADP — called also *adenosine triphosphate*

ATPase \ā-tē-pē-ās, -āz-*n* (1946): an enzyme that hydrolyzes ATP; esp: one that hydrolyzes ATP to ADP and inorganic phosphate

at-ra-bil-i-ous \ā-trā-bil-yās-*adj* [L *atra bilis* black bile] (1651) 1: given to or marked by melancholy: **GLOOMY** 2: **ILL-NATURED**, **PEEVISH** — **at-ra-bil-i-ous-ness** *n*

at-ra-zine \ā-trā-zēn-*n* [perh. fr. amino + triazine] (1962): a photosynthesis-inhibiting persistent herbicide $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{14}\text{ClN}_5$ used esp. to kill annual weeds and quack grass

atrem-ble \ā-trem-bəl-*adj* (1862): shaking involuntarily: **TREMBLING** (*he was white as death and all ~* — Robert Coover)

atre-sia \ā-trē-zhā-*n* [NL, fr. *trē-sia* + Gk *trēsis* perforation, fr. *tetranein* to pierce — more at **THROW**] (ca. 1807) 1: absence or closure of a natural passage of the body 2: absence or disappearance of an anatomical part (as an ovarian follicle) by degeneration

Atreus \ā-trūs, -trēs-*n* [Gk] (15c): a king of Mycenae and father of Agamemnon and Menelaus

atrial natriuretic peptide *n* (1984): a peptide hormone secreted by the cardiac atria that in pharmacological doses promotes salt and water excretion and lowers blood pressure — called also *atrial natriuretic factor*

atrio-ven-tric-u-lar \ā-trē-6-ven-tri-kyə-lər, -vān-*adj* [NL *atrium* + *E ventricular*] (ca. 1860): of, relating to, or located between an atrium and ventricle of the heart

ena and laws of electricity 3 : keen contagious excitement <could feel the ~ in the room>
electric organ *n* (1773) : a specialized tract of tissue (as in the electric eel) in which electricity is generated
electric ray *n* (1774) : any of various round-bodied short-tailed rays (family Torpedinidae) of warm seas with a pair of electric organs
elec-tri-fi-ca-tion \i-lek-trā-fā-kā-shən, ē- / *n* (1748) 1 : an act or process of electrifying 2 : the state of being electrified
elec-tri-fy \i-lek-trā-fī, ē- / *vt* -fied; -fy-ing (1745) 1 a : to charge with electricity b (1) : to equip for use of electric power (2) : to supply with electric power (3) : to amplify (music) electronically 2 : to excite intensely or suddenly <the news electrified the nation>
elec-tro-acous-tics \i-lek-trō-ā-kūs-tiks / *n pl* but *sing in constr* (1927) : a science that deals with the transformation of acoustic energy into electric energy or vice versa — **elec-tro-acous-tic** \-tik / *adj*
elec-tro-anal-y-sis \-ə-nā-lō-səs / *n* (1903) : chemical analysis by electrolytic methods — **elec-tro-an-a-lyt-i-cal** \-līt-i-kāl / *adj*
elec-tro-car-dio-gram \-kār-dē-ō-gram / *n* (ca. 1904) : the tracing made by an electrocardiograph; also : the procedure for producing an electrocardiogram
elec-tro-car-dio-graph \-grāf / *n* (1913) : an instrument for recording the changes of electrical potential occurring during the heartbeat used esp. in diagnosing abnormalities of heart action — **elec-tro-car-dio-graph-ic** \-kār-dē-ō-grā-fik / *adj* — **elec-tro-car-dio-graph-i-cal-ly** \-fī-k(ə)-lē / *adv* — **elec-tro-car-di-og-ra-phy** \-dē-ā-grā-fē / *n*
elec-tro-cau-tery \-kō-tō-rē / *n* (ca. 1884) : cauterization of tissue by means of an instrument heated by an electric current
elec-tro-chem-is-try \-ke-mā-strē / *n* (1814) : a science that deals with the relation of electricity to chemical changes and with the interconversion of chemical and electrical energy — **elec-tro-chem-i-cal** \-ke-mī-kāl / *adj* — **elec-tro-chem-i-cal-ly** \-k(ə)-lē / *adv* — **elec-tro-chem-ist** \-ke-mīst / *n*
elec-tro-con-vul-sive \i-lek-trō-kon-vul-siv / *adj* (1947) : of, relating to, or involving convulsive response to electroshock (<~ shocks>)
electroconvulsive therapy *n* (1948) : ELECTROSHOCK THERAPY
elec-tro-cor-ti-co-gram \i-lek-trō-kōr-tī-kō-gram / *n* (1939) : an electroencephalogram made with the electrodes in direct contact with the brain
elec-tro-cute \i-lek-trō-kyūt / *vt* -cut-ed; -cut-ing [electr- + -cute (as in *execute*)] (1889) 1 : to execute (a criminal) by electricity 2 : to kill by electric shock — **elec-tro-cu-tion** \i-lek-trō-kyū-shən / *n*
elec-trode \i-lek-trōd / *n* (1834) 1 : a conductor used to establish electrical contact with a nonmetallic part of a circuit 2 : an element in a semiconductor device (as a transistor) that emits or collects electrons or holes or controls their movements
elec-tro-de-pos-it \i-lek-trō-dī-pā-zət / *n* (1864) : a deposit formed in or at an electrode by electrolysis
electrodeposit *vt* (1882) : to deposit (as a metal or rubber) by electrolysis — **elec-tro-de-po-si-tion** \-dē-pō-zī-shən, -dē-pō- / *n*
elec-tro-der-mal \i-lek-trō-dēr-māl / *adj* (1940) : of or relating to electrical activity in or electrical properties of the skin
elec-tro-des-ic-ca-tion \i-lek-trō-dē-sī-kā-shən / *n* (1919) : the drying up of tissue by a high-frequency electric current applied with a needle-shaped electrode — called also *fulguration*
elec-tro-di-al-y-sis \i-lek-trō-dī-ā-lō-səs / *n* (1921) : dialysis accelerated by an electromotive force applied to electrodes adjacent to the membranes — **elec-tro-di-ā-lyt-ic** \-dī-ā-lī-tik / *adj*
elec-tro-dy-nam-ics \-dī-nā-mīks / *n pl* but *sing in constr* (1827) : a branch of physics that deals with the effects arising from the interactions of electric currents with magnets, with other currents, or with themselves — **elec-tro-dy-nam-ic** \-mīk / *adj*
elec-tro-en-ceph-a-lo-gram \-in-se-f(ə)-lō-gram / *n* [ISV] (1934) : the tracing of brain waves made by an electroencephalograph
elec-tro-en-ceph-a-lo-graph \-grāf / *n* [ISV] (1936) : an apparatus for detecting and recording brain waves — **elec-tro-en-ceph-a-log-ra-pher** \-se-fā-lō-grā-fār / *n* — **elec-tro-en-ceph-a-lo-graph-ic** \-se-f(ə)-lō-grā-fik / *adj* — **elec-tro-en-ceph-a-lo-graph-i-cal-ly** \-fī-k(ə)-lē / *adv* — **elec-tro-en-ceph-a-log-ra-phy** \-lō-grā-fē / *n*
elec-tro-fish-ing \i-lek-trō-fī-shīng / *n* (1950) : fishing that employs a direct electric current to attract and usu. temporarily immobilize fish for easy capture
elec-tro-form \i-lek-trō-fōrm / *vt* (1931) : to form (shaped articles) by electrodeposition on a mold — **electroform** *n*
elec-tro-gen-ic \i-lek-trō-jē-nīk / *adj* (ca. 1890) : of or relating to the production of electrical activity in living tissue <an ~ pump> — **elec-tro-gen-e-sis** \-jē-nō-sīs / *n*
elec-tro-gram \i-lek-trō-grām / *n* (ca. 1935) : a tracing of the electrical potentials of a tissue (as the brain or heart) made by means of electrodes placed directly in the tissue instead of on the surface of the body
elec-tro-hy-drau-līc \i-lek-trō-hī-drō-līk, -drā- / *adj* (1922) 1 : of or relating to a combination of electric and hydraulic mechanisms 2 : involving or produced by the action of very brief but powerful pulse discharges of electricity under a liquid resulting in the generation of shock waves and highly reactive chemical species <an ~ effect>
elec-tro-jet \i-lek-trō-jet / *n* (1955) : a concentration of atmospheric electric current found in the regions of strong auroral displays and along the magnetic equator
elec-tro-ki-net-ic \i-lek-trō-kē-ne-tīk, -kī- / *adj* (1873) : of or relating to the motion of particles or liquids that results from or produces a difference of electric potential
elec-tro-ki-net-ics \-tīks / *n pl* but *sing in constr* (ca. 1925) : a branch of physics dealing with the motion of electric currents or charged particles
elec-tro-less \i-lek-trō-lōs, -trō- / *adj* (1947) : being or involving deposition of metal by chemical means instead of by electrodeposition
elec-tro-lis-t \i-lek-trā-lō-jist / *n* [blend of *electrolysis* and *logist* (fr. *log* + *-ist*)] (ca. 1902) : a person who removes hair by means of an electric current applied to the body with a needle-shaped electrode — **elec-tro-lis-ty** \-lō-jē / *n*
elec-tro-lu-mi-nes-cent \i-lek-trō-lū-mā-ne-sēnt / *adj* (ca. 1909) : of or relating to luminescence resulting from a high-frequency discharge through a gas or from application of a current to a layer of phosphor — **elec-tro-lu-mi-nes-cence** \-sēnt(t)s / *n*

elec-trol-y-sis \i-lek-trā-lō-səs / *n* (1834) 1 a : the producing of chemical changes by passage of an electric current through an electrolyte b : subjection to this action 2 : the destruction of hair roots by an electrologist using direct current
elec-tro-lyte \i-lek-trō-līt / *n* (1834) 1 : a nonmetallic electric conductor in which current is carried by the movement of ions 2 a : a substance that when dissolved in a suitable solvent or when fused becomes an ionic conductor b : any of the ions (as of sodium or calcium) that in biological fluid regulate or affect most metabolic processes (as the flow of nutrients into and waste products out of cells)
elec-tro-lyt-ic \i-lek-trō-lī-tik / *adj* (1842) : of or relating to electrolysis or an electrolyte <an ~ cell>; also : produced by or used in electrolysis <~ copper> — **elec-tro-lyt-i-cal-ly** \-tī-k(ə)-lē / *adv*
elec-tro-lyze \i-lek-trō-līz / *vt* -lyzed; -lyz-ing (1834) : to subject to electrolysis
elec-tro-mag-net \i-lek-trō-mag-nēt / *n* (1831) : a core of magnetic material (as iron) surrounded by a coil of wire through which an electric current is passed to magnetize the core
elec-tro-mag-net-ic \-mag-ne-tīk / *adj* (1821) : of, relating to, or produced by electromagnetism — **elec-tro-mag-net-i-cal-ly** \-tī-k(ə)-lē / *adv*
electromagnetic pulse *n* (1963) : high-intensity electromagnetic radiation generated by a nuclear blast high above the earth's surface and held to disrupt electronic and electrical systems
electromagnetic radiation *n* (1902) : energy in the form of electromagnetic waves; also : a series of electromagnetic waves
electromagnetic spectrum *n* (ca. 1934) : the entire range of wavelengths or frequencies of electromagnetic radiation extending from gamma rays to the longest radio waves and including visible light
electromagnetic unit *n* (1855) : any of a system of electrical units based primarily on the magnetic properties of electrical currents
electromagnetic wave *n* (1906) : one of the waves that are propagated by simultaneous periodic variations of electric and magnetic field intensity and that include radio waves, infrared, visible light, ultraviolet, X-rays, and gamma rays
elec-tro-mag-ne-tism \i-lek-trō-mag-nē-tī-zəm / *n* (1828) 1 : magnetism developed by a current of electricity 2 a : a fundamental physical force that is responsible for interactions between charged particles which occur because of their charge and for the emission and absorption of photons, that is about a hundredth the strength of the strong force, and that extends over infinite distances but is dominant over atomic and molecular distances — called also *electromagnetic force*; compare GRAVITY 3a(2), STRONG FORCE, WEAK FORCE b : a branch of physical science that deals with the physical relations between electricity and magnetism
elec-tro-me-chan-i-cal \-mā-kā-nī-kāl / *adj* (1888) : of, relating to, or being a mechanical process or device actuated or controlled electrically; esp : being a transducer for converting electrical energy to mechanical energy — **elec-tro-me-chan-i-cal-ly** \-k(ə)-lē / *adv*
elec-tro-met-al-lur-gy \-me-tā-lōr-jē, esp Brit -mā-tā-lōr- / *n* (1840) : a branch of metallurgy that deals with the application of electric current either for electrolytic deposition or as a source of heat
elec-trom-e-ter \i-lek-trā-mā-tēr / *n* (1749) : any of various instruments for detecting or measuring potential differences or ionizing radiations by means of the forces of attraction or repulsion between charged bodies
elec-tro-mo-tive force \i-lek-trō-mō-tiv-, -trō- / *n* (1827) : something that moves or tends to move electricity; esp : the apparent force that drives a current around an electrical circuit and that is equivalent to the potential difference between the terminals of the circuit
elec-tro-myo-graph \i-lek-trō-mī-ō-gram / *n* (1917) : a tracing made by an electromyograph
elec-tro-myo-graph \-grāf / *n* [electr- + my- + -graph] (1948) : an instrument that converts the electrical activity associated with functioning skeletal muscle into a visual record or into sound and is used to diagnose neuromuscular disorders and in biofeedback training — **elec-tro-myo-graph-ic** \-mī-ō-grā-fik / *adj* — **elec-tro-myo-graph-i-cal-ly** \-fī-k(ə)-lē / *adv* — **elec-tro-myo-og-ra-phy** \-mī-ō-grā-fē / *n*
elec-tron \i-lek-trān / *n* [electr- + -on] (1891) : an elementary particle consisting of a charge of negative electricity equal to about 1.602 × 10⁻¹⁹ coulomb and having a mass when at rest of about 9.109 × 10⁻³¹ kilogram or about 1/1836 that of a proton
electron cloud *n* (1926) : the system of electrons surrounding the nucleus of an atom
elec-tro-neg-a-tive \i-lek-trō-ne-gā-tiv / *adj* (1813) : having a tendency to attract electrons — **elec-tro-neg-a-tiv-i-ty** \-ne-gā-tī-vā-tē / *n*
electron gas *n* (ca. 1929) : a population of free electrons in a vacuum or in a metallic conductor
electron gun *n* (1924) : an electron-emitting cathode and its surrounding assembly (as electromagnets in a cathode-ray tube) for directing, controlling, and focusing a beam of electrons
elec-tron-ic \i-lek-trā-nīk / *adj* (1902) 1 : of or relating to electrons 2 a : of, relating to, or utilizing devices constructed or working by the methods or principles of electronics (<~ fuel injection>) b : implemented on or by means of a computer : involving a computer (<~ banking>) 3 a : generating musical tones by electronic means <an ~ organ> b : of, relating to, or being music that consists of sounds electronically generated or modified 4 : of, relating to, or being a medium (as television) by which information is transmitted electronically (<~ journalism>) — **elec-tron-i-cal-ly** \-nī-k(ə)-lē / *adv*
elec-tron-i-ca \i-lek-trā-nī-kā / *n* [prob. fr. *New Electronica*, recording label of the Brit. firm Beechwood Music Ltd.] (1994) : dance music featuring extensive use of synthesizers, electronic percussion, and samples of recorded music or sound
electronic countermeasure *n* (1962) : the disruption of the operation of an enemy's equipment (as by jamming radio or radar signals)
electronic mail *n* (1975) : E-MAIL

\ə/ about \ə/ kitten, F table \ər/ further \ə/ ash \ā/ ace \ā/ mop, mar \ə/ out \ch/ chin \et/ bet \ē/ easy \ē/ go \ī/ hit \ī/ ice \ī/ job \ī/ sing \ō/ go \ō/ law \ō/ boy \th/ thin \th/ the \ū/ loot \ū/ foot \y/ yet \zh/ vision, beige \k/, n, ce, ue, \ see Guide to Pronunciation

into different groups **c**: a piece of apparatus designed to prevent agencies in one part from affecting other parts (an optical ~) **d**: a frame holding a usu. metallic netting used esp. in a window or door to exclude pests (as insects) **4 a**: a flat surface on which a picture or series of pictures is projected or reflected **b**: the surface on which the image appears in an electronic display (as in a television set, radar receiver, or computer terminal); **also**: the information displayed on a computer screen at one time **5**: a glass plate ruled with crossing opaque lines through which an image is photographed in making a halftone **6**: the motion-picture medium or industry

2 screen *v* (15c) **1**: to guard from injury or danger **2 a**: to give shelter or protection to with or as if with a screen **b**: to separate with or as if with a screen; **also**: to shield (an opponent) from a play or from view of a play **3 a**: to pass (as coal, gravel, or ashes) through a screen to separate the fine part from the coarse; **also**: to remove by a screen **b** (1): to examine usu. methodically in order to make a separation into different groups (2): to select or eliminate by a screening process (3): to test or examine for the presence of something (as a disease) (patients were ~ed for hepatitis) **4**: to provide with a screen to keep out pests (as insects) **5 a** (1): to present (as a motion picture) for viewing on a screen (2): to view the presentation of (as a motion picture) **b**: to present in a motion picture ~ *vi* **1**: to appear on a motion-picture screen **2**: to provide a screen in a game or sport *syn* see **HIDE** — **screen-able** \ˈskrē-nə-bəl/ *adj* — **screen-er** *n*

screen-ful \ˈskrēn-fəl/ *n* (1966): the amount of information visible at one time on a display screen

screen-ing \ˈskrē-nɪŋ/ *n* (1725) **1**: the act or process of one that screens **2 pl** *but sing or pl in constr*: material (as waste or fine coal) separated out by means of a screen **3**: metal or plastic mesh (as for window screens) **4**: a showing of a motion picture

screen-land \ˈskrēn-land/ *n* (1925): **FILMDOM**

screen memory *n* (1923): a recollection of early childhood that may be falsely recalled or magnified in importance and that masks another memory of deep emotional significance

screen pass *n* (ca. 1949): a forward pass in football to a receiver at or behind the line of scrimmage who is protected by a screen of blockers

screen-play \ˈskrēn-plā/ *n* (1916): the script and often shooting directions of a story prepared for motion-picture production

screen saver *n* (1982): a computer program that usu. displays various images on the screen of a computer that is on but not in use

screen-shot \ˈskrēn-shāt/ *n* (1983): an image that shows the contents of a computer display

screen test *n* (1927): a short film sequence for assessing the ability or suitability of a person for a motion-picture role — **screen-test** *v*

screen-writer \ˈskrēn-rī-tər/ *n* (1921): a writer of screenplays

1 screw \ˈskru/ *n* [ME *scrue*, fr. MF *escroe* female screw, nut, fr. ML *scrofa*, fr. L. *sow*] (15c) **1 a**: a simple machine of the inclined plane type consisting of a spirally grooved solid cylinder and a correspondingly grooved hollow cylinder into which it fits **b**: a nail-shaped or rod-shaped piece with a spiral groove and a slotted or recessed head designed to be inserted into material by rotating (as with a screwdriver) and used for fastening pieces of solid material together **2 a**: a screw-like form **b**: a turn of a screw; **also**: a twist like the turn of a screw **c**: a screwlike device (as a corkscrew) **3**: a worn-out horse **4 chiefly Brit**: a small packet (as of tobacco) **5**: a prison guard **6**: a person who bargains shrewdly; **also**: SKINFINT **7**: a propeller esp. of a ship **8 a**: THUMBSCREW **1 b**: pressure or punitive measures intended to coerce — **use chiefly in the phrase put the screws on or put the screws to** **9 a usu vulgar**: an act of sexual intercourse **b usu vulgar**: a partner in sexual intercourse — **screw-like** \-līk/ *adj* — **have a screw loose**: to be mentally unbalanced

2 screw *v* (1605) **1 a** (1): to attach, fasten, or close by means of a screw (2): to unite or separate by means of a screw or a twisting motion (3): to press tightly in a device (as a vise) operated by a screw (4): to operate, tighten, or adjust by means of a screw (5): to torture by means of a thumbscrew **b**: to cause to rotate spirally about an axis **2 a** (1): to twist into strained configurations: **CONTOUR** (~ed up his face) (2): **SQUINT** (3): **CRUMPLE** **b**: to furnish with a spiral groove or ridge: **THREAD** **3**: to increase the intensity, quantity, or capability of (trying to ~ up courage to confess — Will Scott) **4 a** (1): to mistreat or exploit through extortion, trickery, or unfair actions; **esp**: to deprive of or cheat out of something due or expected (2): to treat so as to bring about injury or loss (as to a person's reputation) (use the available Federal machinery to ~ our political enemies — J. W. Dean III) — **often used as a generalized curse** (~ you!) **b**: to extract by pressure or threat **5 usu vulgar**: to copulate with ~ *vi* **1**: to rotate like or as a screw **2**: to turn or move with a twisting or writhing motion **3 usu vulgar**: **COPULATE** — **screw-er** *n*

screw around *vi* (1939) **1**: to waste time with unproductive activity: **DALLY** **2**: to have sexual relations with someone outside of a marriage or steady relationship: **be sexually promiscuous**

1 screw-ball \ˈskru-bəl/ *n* (1908) **1**: a baseball pitch that spins and breaks in the opposite direction to a curve **2**: a whimsical, eccentric, or crazy person: **ZANY**

2 screwball *adj* (ca. 1936): **crazily eccentric or whimsical**: **ZANY**

screw-bean \ˈskru-bēn/ *n* (1866) **1**: a leguminous shrub or small tree (*Prosopis pubescens*) of the southwestern U.S. and northern Mexico having spirally twisted pods with sweet pulp — called also **screwbean mesquite** **2**: the pod of the screwbean

screw-driv-er \ˈskru-dri-vər/ *n* (1779) **1**: a tool for turning screws **2**: vodka and orange juice served with ice

screw eye *n* (1873): a wood screw with a head in the form of a loop

screw jack *n* (1719): a screw-operated jack for lifting, exerting pressure, or adjusting position (as of a machine part)

screw pine *n* (1836): any of a genus (*Pandanus*) of the family Pandanaceae, the screw-pine family) of tropical monocotyledonous Old World trees or shrubs with slender palmlike stems, often huge prop roots, and terminal crowns of swordlike leaves

screw propeller *n* (1839): **PROPELLER**

screw thread *n* (ca. 1812) **1**: the projecting helical rib of a screw **2**: one complete turn of a screw thread

screw-up \ˈskru-ʊp/ *n* (ca. 1960) **1**: one who screws up **2**: **BOTCH**, **BLUNDER**

screw up *vt* (1680) **1**: to tighten, fasten, or lock by or as if by a screw

2 a: **BUNGLE**, **BOTCH** **b**: to cause to act or function in a crazy or confused way: **CONFOUND**, **DISTURB** ~ *vi*: to botch an activity or undertaking

screw-worm \ˈskru-wɔrm/ *n* (1879) **1**: a blowfly (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) of the warmer parts of America whose larva develops in wounds or in the nostrils of mammals including humans with serious or sometimes fatal results; **esp**: its larva **2**: any of several flies other than the screwworm and **esp**: their larvae which parasitize the flesh of mammals

screwy \ˈskru-ē/ *adj* **screw-i-er**, **-est** (1887) **1**: **crazily absurd, eccentric, or unusual** **2**: **CRAZY**, **INSANE** — **screw-i-ness** *n*

scrib-al \ˈskri-bəl/ *adj* (1857): of, relating to, or due to a scribe

scrib-ble \ˈskri-bəl/ *vb* **scrib-bled**; **scrib-bling** \-b(ə)-lɪŋ/ *pt*, *pp*, *fr.* ML *scribillare*, *fr.* L *scribere* to write] *v* (15c) **1**: to write hastily or carelessly without regard to legibility or form **2**: to deal with careless or worthless writings or drawings ~ *vi*: to write or draw hastily and carelessly — **scribble** *n*

scrib-ble \ˈskri-b(ə)-lər/ *n* (ca. 1553) **1**: one that scribbles **2**: a minor or insignificant author

1 scribe \ˈskri-b/ *n* [ME, *fr.* L *scriba* official writer, *fr.* *scribere* to write akin to Gk *skariphas* to scratch an outline] (14c) **1**: a member of a learned class in ancient Israel through New Testament times studying the Scriptures and serving as copyists, editors, teachers, and jurists **2 a**: an official or public secretary or clerk **b**: a copier of manuscripts **3**: **WRITER**; **specif**: **JOURNALIST**

2 scribe *vt* **scribed**; **scrib-ing** (1782): to work as a scribe: **WRITE**

3 scribe *vt* **scribed**; **scrib-ing** [prob. short for *describer*] (1678) **1**: to mark a line on by cutting or scratching with a pointed instrument **2**: to make by cutting or scratching

4 scribe *n* (1812): **SCRIBER**

scrib-er \ˈskri-bər/ *n* (ca. 1836): a sharp-pointed tool for making marks and **esp.** for marking off material (as wood or metal) to be cut

scrieve \ˈskri-v/ *vi* [perh. of Scand origin; akin to ON *skreifa* to stride] (1785) *Scot*: to move along swiftly and smoothly

scrim \ˈskrim/ *n* [origin unknown] (1792) **1**: a durable plain-woven usu. cotton fabric for use in clothing, curtains, building, and industry **2**: a theater drop that appears opaque when a scene in front is lighted and transparent or translucent when a scene in back is lighted **3**: something likened to a theater scrim

1 scrim-mage \ˈskri-mij/ *n* [ME *scrymmage*, alter. of *skrymmish* skirmish] (15c) **1 a**: a minor battle: **SKIRMISH** **b**: a confused fight: **SCUFFLE** **2 a**: the interplay between two football teams that begins with the snap of the ball and continues until the ball is dead **b**: practice play (as in football or basketball) between two squads

2 scrimmage *vb* **scrim-maged**; **scrim-mag-ing** *vi* (ca. 1825): to take part in a scrimmage ~ *vt*: to play a scrimmage against — **scrim-mag-er** *n*

scrimmage line *n* (1909): **LINE OF SCRIMMAGE**

scrimp \ˈskrimp/ *vb* [perh. of Scand origin; akin to Sw *skrympa* to shrink, MLG *schrempen* to contract — more at **SHRIMP**] *vt* (ca. 1774) **1**: to be stingy in providing for **2**: to make too small, short, or scanty ~ *vi*: to be frugal or stingy — **scrimpy** \ˈskrim-pē/ *adj*

scrim-shan-der \ˈskrim-shan-dər/ *n* [origin unknown] (1851) **1**: **SCRIMSHAW** **2**: a person who creates scrimshaw

1 scrimshaw \ˈskrim-shə/ *vb* [origin unknown] *vt* (ca. 1826): to carve or engrave into scrimshaw ~ *vi*: to produce scrimshaw

2 scrimshaw *n* (ca. 1864) **1**: any of various carved or engraved articles made orig. by American whalers usu. from baleen or whale ivory; **2**: scrimshawed work **3**: the art, practice, or technique of producing scrimshaw

1 scrip \ˈskrip/ *n* [ME *scrippe*, *fr.* ML *scrippum* pilgrim's knapsack] (14c) *archaic*: a small bag or wallet

2 scrip *n* [alter. of *script*] (1590) **1**: a short writing (as a certificate, schedule, or list) **2**: a small piece **3 a**: any of various documents used as evidence that the holder or bearer is entitled to receive something (as a fractional share of stock or an allotment of land) **b**: paper currency or a token issued for temporary use in an emergency

3 scrip *n* (1966): **PRESCRIPTION 4a**

1 script \ˈskript/ *n* [ME, *fr.* L *scriptum* thing written, *fr.* neut. of *scribere*, pp. of *scribere* to write — more at **SCRIBE**] (14c) **1 a**: something written: **TEXT** **b**: an original or principal instrument or document (1) **MANUSCRIPT** (2) the written text of a stage play, screenplay, or broadcast; **specif**: the one used in production or performance **2 a**: style of printed letters that resembles handwriting **b**: written characters: **HANDWRITING** **c**: **ALPHABET** **3**: a plan of action

2 script *vt* (1935) **1**: to prepare a script for or from **2**: to provide carefully considered details for (as a plan of action) (an event carefully ~ed to attract attention)

3 script *n* (1951): **PRESCRIPTION 4a**

script-er \ˈskrip-tər/ *n* (1939): **SCRIPTWRITER**

scrip-to-ri-um \ˈskrip-tō-rē-əm/ *n*, *pl* -ri-a \-ē-ə/ [ML, *fr.* L *scribitur*] (1774): a copying room for scribes **esp.** in a medieval monastery

scrip-tur-al \ˈskrip(t)-sh(ə)-rəl/ *adj* (1641): of, relating to, contained in, or according to a sacred writing; **esp**: **BIBLICAL** — **scrip-tur-ally** *adv*

scrip-ture \ˈskrip(t)-shər/ *n* [ME, *fr.* LL *scriptura*, *fr.* L, act or product of writing, *fr.* *scriptus*] (14c) **1 a** (1) *cap*: the books of the Bible — **often used in pl.** (2) *often cap*: a passage from the Bible **b**: a book or writings considered sacred or authoritative **2**: something written (the primitive man's awe for any ~ — George Santayana)

script-writ-er \ˈskrip(t)-rī-tər/ *n* (1935): a person who writes scripts

scriv-en-er \ˈskriv-nər, -skri-və/ *n* [ME *scriveiner*, alter. of *scriben*, *fr.* VL **scriban*, *scriba*, alter. of L *scriba* scribe] (14c) **1**: a professional or public copyist or writer: **SCRIBE** **2**: **NOTARY PUBLIC**

scrod *also* **schrod** \ˈskrəd/ *n* [prob. *fr.* Brit. dial. (Cornwall) *scraw*, pp. of *scraw*, *scrawl* to split, salt, and lightly dry (young fish)] (1841) **1**: young fish (as a cod or haddock); **esp**: one split and boned for cooking

scrof-u-la \ˈskrō-fyə-lə, -skrā-/ *n* [NL, back-formation *fr.* LL *scrofula*, *pl.*, swellings of the lymph nodes of the neck, *fr.* *pl.* of *scrofula*, *dim.* of