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sient; insubstantial. ● *n.* *Old-fash.* (usu. *derog.*) *sl.* a woman.
 ○ **frailly** *adv.* **frailness** *n.* [ME *f.* OF *fraille*, *frele* *f.* L. *fragilis* FRAGILE]
 ■ *adj.* 1 see FRAGILE 1. 2 ailing, unwell, ill, sick, sickly, poorly, wasting or fading away, languishing, infirm, feeble, fragile. 3 susceptible, weak, venal, corruptible; bribable, buyable, purchasable. ● *n.* see WOMAN 1.
frailty /fráyltee/ *n.* (*pl.* -ies) 1 the condition of being frail. 2 liability to err or yield to temptation. 3 a fault, weakness, or foible. [ME *f.* OF *frailté* *f.* L. *fragilitas* -*tatis* (as FRAGILE)]
 ■ 1 frailness, weakness, infirmity, feebleness, fragility, delicacy. 2 susceptibility, suggestibility, impressionability, vulnerability; fallibility. 3 weakness, foible, flaw, fault, defect, imperfection.
Fraktur /fráktūr/ *n.* a German style of black letter type. [G]
frambesia /frámbezha/ *n.* *Med.* = YAWS. [mod.L. *f.* F *framboise* raspberry *f.* L. *fraga ambrosia* ambrosial strawberry]
frame /fraym/ *n.* & *v.* ● *n.* 1 a case or border enclosing a picture, window, door, etc. 2 the basic rigid supporting structure of anything, e.g., of a building, motor vehicle, or aircraft. 3 (in *pl.*) the structure of spectacles holding the lenses. 4 a human or animal body, esp. with reference to its size or structure (*his frame shook with laughter*). 5 a framed work or structure (*the frame of heaven*). 6 a an established order, plan, or system (*the frame of society*). b construction; constitution; build. 7 a temporary state (esp. in *frame of mind*). 8 a single complete image or picture on a movie or video film or transmitted in a series of lines by television. 9 a a triangular structure for positioning the balls in pool, etc. b the balls positioned in this way. c a round of play in bowling, etc. 10 *Hort.* a boxlike structure of glass, etc., for protecting plants. 11 a removable box of slats for the building of a honeycomb in a beehive. 12 *sl.* = *frame-up*. ● *v.* 1 a set in or provide with a frame. b serve as a frame for. 2 construct by a combination of parts or in accordance with a design or plan. 3 formulate or devise the essentials of (a complex thing, idea, theory, etc.). 4 (foll. by *to*, *into*) adapt or fit. 5 *colloq.* concoct a false charge or evidence against; devise a plot with regard to. 6 articulate (words). a frame house a house constructed of a wooden skeleton covered with boards, etc. **frame of reference** 1 a set of standards or principles governing behavior, thought, etc. 2 *Geom.* a system of geometrical axes for defining position. **frame-up** *colloq.* a conspiracy, esp. to make an innocent person appear guilty. ○ **framable** *adj.* (also **frameable**) **frameless** *adj.* **framer** *n.* [OE *framian* be of service *f.* *fram* forward: see FROM]
 ■ *n.* 1 border, casing, mount, edge, edging; setting. 2 framework, framing, body, structure, fabric, shell, form, skeleton, support; chassis; fuselage. 4 physique, build, bone structure, body, skeleton, figure. 6 a system, form, pattern, scheme, schema, plan, order, organization, framework, scaffolding. b structure, construct, construction, build, arrangement, blueprint, design, layout, composition, constitution, context, makeup, configuration. 7 (**frame of mind**) mood, humor, state (of mind), condition, attitude, bent, disposition. ● *v.* 1 enclose, box (in). 2 construct, build, put together, make up, assemble, put up, erect, raise, elevate. 3 make, fashion, form, mold, carve out, forge, originate, set up, create, devise, compose, formulate, put together, conceive, draw up, draft, shape, block out, give form or shape to; contrive. 4 (*frame to or into*) see ADAPT 1a. ○ **frame of reference** 1 see CODE *n.* 5. **frame-up** see CONSPIRACY 1.
framework /fráymwörk/ *n.* 1 an essential supporting structure. 2 a basic system.
 ■ 1 see STRUCTURE *n.* 1b. 2 see FORMAT *n.* 2.
framing /fráyming/ *n.* a framework; a system of frames.
 ■ see FABRICATION 1.
franc /frangk/ *n.* the chief monetary unit of France, Belgium, Switzerland, Luxembourg, and several other countries. [ME *f.* OF *f.* *Francorum* Rex king of the Franks, the legend on the earliest gold coins so called (14th c.): see FRANK]
franchise /fránchiz/ *n.* & *v.* ● *n.* 1 a the right to vote in

governmental elections. b the principle of qualification for this. 2 full membership of a corporation or nation; citizenship. 3 authorization granted to an individual or group by a company to sell its goods or services in a particular way. 4 *hist.* legal immunity or exemption from a burden or jurisdiction. 5 a right or privilege granted to a person or corporation. 6 a professional sports team, esp. as part of a league. ● *v.* *tr.* grant a franchise to. ○ **franchisee** /-zéé/ *n.* **franchiser** *n.* (also **franchisor**). [ME *f.* OF *f.* *franc*, *franche* free: see FRANK]
 ■ *n.* 1 see SUFFRAGE. 3 see LICENSE 2. 5 see PRIVILEGE *n.* 1a. ● *v.* see CHARTER *v.* 1.

Franciscan /fránsiskən/ *n.* & *adj.* ● *n.* a friar, sister, or lay member of an order founded in 1209 by St. Francis of Assisi (see also GREY FRIAR). ● *adj.* of St. Francis or his order. [F *franciscain* *f.* mod.L. *Franciscanus* *f.* *Franciscus* Francis]
francium /fránseeəm/ *n.* *Chem.* a radioactive metallic element occurring naturally in uranium and thorium ores. ¶ Symb.: Fr. [mod.L. *f.* *France* (the discoverer's country)]

franco- /frángkō/ *comb. form* 1 French; French and (Franco-German). 2 regarding France or the French (*Francophile*). [med.L. *Francus* FRANK]
francolin /frángkōlin/ *n.* any medium-sized partridge of the genus *Francolinus*. [F *f.* It. *francolino*]
Francophile /frángkəfīl/ *n.* a person who is fond of France or the French.

francophone /frángkəfōn/ *n.* & *adj.* ● *n.* a French-speaking person. ● *adj.* French-speaking. [FRANCO- + Gk *phōnē* voice]
frangible /fránjibəl/ *adj.* breakable; fragile. [OF *frangibile* or med.L. *frangibilis* *f.* L. *frangere* to break]
frangipane /fránjipayn/ *n.* 1 a an almond-flavored cream or paste. b a flan filled with this. 2 = FRANGIPANI. [F prob. *f.* Marquis *Frangipani*, 16th-c. It. inventor of the perfume]
frangipani /fránjipánee, -paanee/ *n.* (*pl.* *frangipanis*) 1 any tree or shrub of the genus *Plumeria*, native to tropical America, esp. *P. rubra* with clusters of fragrant white, pink, or yellow flowers. 2 the perfume from this plant. [var. of FRANGIPANE]

franglais /frónglay/ *n.* a version of French using many words and idioms borrowed from English. [F *f.* *français* French + *anglais* English]

Frank /frangk/ *n.* 1 a member of the Germanic nation or coalition that conquered Gaul in the 6th c. 2 (in the Levant) a person of Western nationality. ○ **Frankish** *adj.* [OE *Francia*, OHG *Franko*, perh. *f.* the name of a weapon: cf. OE *franca* javelin]
frank /frangk/ *adj.*, *v.*, & *n.* ● *adj.* 1 candid; outspoken (*a frank opinion*). 2 undisguised; avowed (*frank admiration*). 3 ingenuous; open (*a frank face*). 4 *Med.* unmistakable. ● *v.* 1 stamp (a letter) with an official mark (esp. other than a normal postage stamp) to record the payment of postage. 2 *hist.* superscribe (a letter, etc.) with a signature ensuring conveyance without charge; send without charge. 3 *archaic* facilitate the coming and going of (a person). ● *n.* 1 a franking signature or mark. 2 a franked cover. ○ **frankable** *adj.* **franker** *n.* **frankness** *n.* [ME *f.* OF *franc* *f.* med.L. *francus* free, *f.* FRANK (since only Franks had full freedom in Frankish Gaul)]

■ *adj.* 1 candid, direct, outspoken, blunt, plainspoken, forthright, *colloq.* upfront; explicit, truthful, *colloq.* on the level. 2 undisguised, avowed, open, free, unreserved, uninhibited, unrestrained, unchecked, unconstrained, unrestricted, unabashed. 3 ingenuous, open, honest, sincere, genuine, candid, naive, guileless, artless, innocent.

Frankenstein /frángkənstīn/ *n.* (in full **Frankenstein's monster**) a thing that becomes terrifying to its maker; a

/ . . / pronunciation ● part of speech
 ○ phrases, idioms, and compounds
 ○ derivatives ■ synonym section
 cross-references appear in SMALL CAPITALS or italics