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right-handed *adj.* 1 (of a person) using the right hand more naturally than the left. 2 (of a tool or item of equipment) made to be used with the right hand or by right-handed people. 3 made or done with the right hand, or in a manner natural to right-handed people. 4 going toward or turning to the right, in particular: (of a screw) advancing by turning clockwise. 5 Biology (of a spiral shell or helix) advanced by turning clockwise. 6 turning clockwise. *adv.* with the right hand, or in a manner natural to right-handed people: *Jackson bats right-handed.* —**right-handedly** *adv.*

right-hander */ˈhaɪndər/* *n.* a right-handed person, esp. a right-handed baseball pitcher. 2 a blow struck with the right hand.

rightist */ˈraɪtɪst/* *n.* a person who supports the political views or policies of the right. *adj.* supportive of the political views or policies of the right: *rightist doctrine.* —**rightism** */-ɪzəm/* *n.*

rightly */ˈraɪtli/* *adv.* correctly. 2 with good reason. 3 in accordance with justice or what is morally right.

right-minded *adj.* having sound views and principles.

rightmost */ˈraɪtməst/* *adj.* [attrib.] situated furthest to the right.

right of way (also **right-of-way**) *n.* 1 the legal right, established by usage or grant, to pass along a specific route through property belonging to another. 2 a path or thoroughfare subject to such a right.

2 the legal right of a pedestrian, rider, or driver to proceed before other road users at a particular point. 3 the right of a ship, boat, or aircraft to proceed with precedence over others in a particular situation. 4 the right to build and operate a railroad line, road, or utility on land belonging to another. 5 the land on which a railroad line, road, or utility is built.

right-on *adj.* often derogatory in keeping with fashionable liberal or left-wing opinions and values.

right side *n.* the side of something, esp. a garment or fabric, intended to be uppermost or foremost.

PHRASES on the right side of on the safe, appropriate, or desirable side of. 2 in a position to be viewed with favor by. 3 somewhat less than (a specified age). **right side out** with the side intended to be seen or used uppermost: *turn the skirt right side out.*

rightsize */ˈraɪtˌsaɪz/* *v.* [trans.] convert (something) to an appropriate or optimum size. 2 reduce the size of (a company or organization).

rights of man *plural n.* rights held to be justifiably belonging to any person; human rights.

right-thinking *adj.* right-minded.

right-to-die *adj.* pertaining to, expressing, or advocating the right to refuse extraordinary measures intended to prolong someone's life when they are terminally ill or comatose.

right-to-know *adj.* of or pertaining to laws or policies that make certain government or company records available to any individual who can demonstrate a right or need to know their contents.

right-to-life *adj.* another term for **PRO-LIFE**. —**right-to-lifer** */ˈlaɪfər/* *n.*

right triangle *n.* a triangle with a right angle.

right turn *n.* a turn that brings a person's front to face the way their right side did before.

rightward */ˈraɪtɜːd/* *adv.* (also **rightwards** */-wɜːdz/*) toward the right: *the party began to shift rightward.* *adj.* going toward or situated on the right.

right whale *n.* a baleen whale (family Balaenidae) with a large head and a deeply curved jaw, of Arctic and temperate waters.

right wing *n.* (the **right wing**) 1 the conservative or reactionary section of a political party or system. [ORIGIN: with reference to the National Assembly in France (1789–91), where the nobles sat to the president's right and the commons to the left.] 2 the right side of a team on the field in soccer, rugby, and field hockey. 3 the right side of an army. *adj.* conservative or reactionary: *a right-wing Republican.* —**right-wing** *adj.*

righty */ˈraɪti/* *n.* (pl. **-ies**) informal a right-handed person. *adv.* with the right hand or as customary for a right-handed person: *he bats righty.*

rigid */ˈrɪdʒɪd/* *adj.* unable to bend or be forced out of shape; not flexible: *a seat of rigid orange plastic.* 2 (of a person or part of the body) stiff and unmovable, esp. as a result of shock or fear. 3 figurative not able to be changed or adapted. 4 figurative (of a person or their behavior) not adaptable in outlook, belief, or response. —**rigidity** */ˈrɪdʒɪdɪti/* *n.* 5 **rigidness** *n.*

rigmarole */ˈrɪɡməˌroʊl/* *n.* [usu. in sing.] a lengthy and complicated procedure. 2 a long, rambling story or statement.

rigor */ˈrɪɡər/* *n.* 1 the quality of being extremely thorough, exhaustive, or accurate. 2 severity or strictness: *the full rigor of the law.* 3 (rigors) demanding, difficult, or extreme conditions. 4 Medicine shivering accompanied by a rise in temperature, often with copious sweating, esp. at the onset or height of a fever. 5 short for **RIGOR MORTIS**.

rigorism */ˈrɪɡərɪzəm/* *n.* extreme strictness in interpreting or enforcing a law, precept, or principle. —**rigorist** *n.* & *adj.*

rigor mortis */ˈrɪɡər ˈmɔːrtɪs/* *n.* Medicine stiffening of the joints and muscles of a body after death.

rigorous */ˈrɪɡərəs/* *adj.* extremely thorough, exhaustive, or accurate: *the rigorous testing of consumer products.* 2 (of a rule, system, etc.) strictly applied or adhered to. 3 (of a person) adhering strictly or inflexibly to a belief, opinion, or way of doing something: *a rigorous*

orous teetotaler. 4 (of an activity) physically demanding. 5 (of the weather or climate) harsh. —**rigorously** *adv.*; **rigorousness** *n.*

Rig Veda */ˈrɪɡ ˈvədə/* *n.* *vedā/* Hinduism the oldest and principal of the Vedas. See **VEDA**.

Rils */ˈres/*, Jacob August (1849–1914), US journalist and social activist; born in Denmark. He was a crusader for parks, playgrounds, and improved schools and housing in urban areas.

Rijeka */ˈriːjəkə/* a city on the Adriatic coast of Croatia; pop. 168,000. Italian name **FIUME**.

rijsttafel */ˈrɪˌstɑːfəl/* *n.* a meal of Southeast Asian food consisting of a selection of spiced rice dishes.

rikeishi */ˈrɪkəˌʃi/* *n.* (pl. same) a sumo wrestler.

Riksmål */ˈrɪkˌsmɑːl/* *n.* another term for **BOKMÅL**.

rile */ˈrɪl/* *v.* [trans.] informal make (someone) annoyed or irritated: *he's getting you all riled up.*

Riley *ˈrɪli/*, Bridget Louise (1931–), English painter. She was a leading exponent of op art.

Riley *ˈrɪli/*, James Whitcomb (1849–1916), US poet; pen name **Benj. F. Johnson, of Boone**. Known as the common people's poet, he wrote "Little Orphan Annie" (1885).

riellevo *n.* variant spelling of **RELIEVO**.

Rilke */ˈrɪlkə/*, Rainer Maria (1875–1926), Austrian poet; born in Bohemia; pen name of **René Karl Wilhelm Josef Maria Rilke**. He wrote *Duino Elegies* and *Sonnets to Orpheus* (both 1923).

rill */ˈrɪl/* *n.* a small stream. 2 a shallow channel cut in the surface of soil or rocks by running water. 3 variant spelling of **RILLE**. *v.* [intrans.] (of water) flow in or as in a rill. 4 [as adj.] (rilled) indented with small grooves.

rille */ˈrɪlə/* (also **rill**) *n.* Astronomy a fissure or narrow channel on the moon's surface.

rillettes */ˈrɪleɪt/* *plural n.* pâté made of minced pork or other light meat, seasoned and combined with fat.

rim *ˈrɪm/* *n.* the upper or outer edge of an object, typically something circular: *an egg cup with a gold rim.* 2 (also **wheel rim**) the outer edge of a wheel, on which the tire is fitted. 3 the metal hoop from which a basketball net is suspended. 4 (often **rims**) the part of a glasses frame surrounding the lenses. 5 an encircling stain or deposit: *a thick rim of suds.* *v.* (rimmed, rimming) [trans.] form or act as an outer edge or rim for: *a huge lake rimmed by glaciers.* 6 (usu. **be rimmed**) mark with an encircling stain or deposit: *his collar was rimmed with dirt.*

rim *ˈrɪm/* *v.* (rimmed, rimming) [trans.] vulgar slang lick or suck the anus of (someone) as a means of sexual stimulation.

Rimbaud */ˈræmˌboː/* *n.* *ræmˈboʊ/*, Arthur (1854–91), French poet; full name **John Nicholas Arthur Rimbaud**. He was known for his symbolist prose poems.

rime *ˈrɪm/* *n.* (also **rime ice**) frost formed on cold objects by the rapid freezing of water vapor. *v.* [trans.] poetic/literary cover (an object) with hoarfrost: *he does not brush away the frost that rimes his beard.*

rime *ˈrɪm/* *n.* & *v.* archaic spelling of **RHYME**.

rimfire *ˈrɪmˌfaɪə/* *adj.* [attrib.] (of a cartridge) having the primer around the edge of the base.

Rimóni *ˈrɪmənɪ/* a city on the Adriatic coast of northeastern Italy; pop. 131,000 (1990).

Rimmon *ˈrɪmən/* (in the Bible) a deity worshiped in ancient Damascus (2 Kings 5: 18).

rimrock *ˈrɪmˌrɒk/* *n.* an outcrop of resistant rock forming a margin to a gravel deposit.

rim shot *n.* a drum stroke in which the stick strikes the rim and the head of the drum simultaneously.

Rimsky-Korsakov *ˈrɪmskɪ ˈkɔːrsəˌkɒf/*, Nikolai Andreevich (1844–1908), Russian composer. He wrote orchestral suite *Scheherazade* (1888).

rind */ˈrɪnd/* *n.* the tough outer layer of something, in particular: 1 the tough outer skin of certain fruit, esp. citrus fruit. 2 the hard outer edge of cheese or bacon, usually removed before eating. 3 the bark of a tree or plant. *v.* [trans.] strip the bark from (a tree).

rindeerpest *ˈrɪndərˌpest/* *n.* Veterinary Medicine an infectious disease of ruminants, esp. cattle.

ring *ˈrɪŋ/* *n.* 1 a small circular band, typically of precious metal and often set with one or more gemstones, worn on a finger as an ornament or token. 2 a circular band of any material: *fried onion rings.* 3 Astronomy a thin band or disk of rock and ice particles around a planet. 4 a circular marking or pattern. 5 an enclosed space, in which a sport, performance, or show takes place: *a circus ring.* 6 a roped enclosure for boxing or wrestling. 7 a group of people or things arranged in a circle. 8 (in a ring) arranged or grouped in a circle: *everyone sat in a ring, holding hands.* 9 [usu. with adj.] a group of people drawn together due to a shared interest or goal, esp. one involving unscrupulous activity. 10 Chemistry another term for **CLOSED CHAIN**. 11 a circular or spiral course: *they were dancing energetically in a ring.* 12 Mathematics a set of elements with two binary operations, addition and multiplication, the second being distributive over the first and associative. *v.* [trans.] 1 (often **be**

ringed *v.* surround (someone or something), esp. for protection or containment. ■ form a line around the edge of (something circular): dark shadows **ringed** his eyes. ■ draw a circle around (something), esp. to focus attention on it: an area of Tribeca had been **ringed** in red. 2 put a circular band through the nose of (a bull, pig, or other farm animal) to lead or otherwise control it. —**ringed** *adj.* [in combination] the five-ringed Olympic emblem.; **ringless** *adj.*

PHRASES run rings around someone informal outclass or outwit someone very easily.

ring *v.* (past **rang** /ræŋg/; past part. **rung** /rʌŋg/) 1 [intrans.] make a clear resonant or vibrating sound: a shot **rang** out [as n.] (**ringing**) the ringing of fire alarms. ■ [trans.] cause (a bell or alarm) to make such a sound. ■ (of a telephone) produce a series of resonant or vibrating sounds to signal an incoming call. ■ call for service or attention by sounding a bell. ■ (of a person's ears) be filled with a continuous buzzing or humming sound. ■ (**ring with/to**) (of a place) resound or reverberate with (a sound or sounds): the room **rang** with laughter. ■ [intrans.] convey a specified impression or quality: the author's honesty **rings** true. ■ [trans.] sound (the hour, a peal, etc.) on a bell or bells: a bell **ringing** the hour. 2 chiefly Brit. call by telephone: I **rang** her this morning. ■ n. an act of causing a bell to sound, or the resonant sound caused by this: there was a **ring** at the door. ■ each of a series of resonant or vibrating sounds signaling an incoming telephone call. ■ [in sing.] a loud clear sound or tone: the **ring** of sledgehammers on metal. ■ [in sing.] a particular quality conveyed by something heard or expressed: the song had a curious **ring** of nostalgia to it.

PHRASES ring a bell see BELL¹. ring down (or up) the curtain cause a theater curtain to be lowered (or raised). ■ figurative mark the end (or the beginning) of an enterprise or event. ring in one's ears (or head) linger in the memory. ring in (or out) the new (or old) year commemorate the new year (or the end of the previous year) with boisterous celebration. ring off the hook (of a telephone) be constantly ringing.

PHRASAL VERBS ring someone/something in (or out) usher someone or something in (or out) by or as if by ringing a bell. ring something up record an amount on a cash register. ■ figurative make, spend, or announce a particular amount in sales, profits, or losses.

ring-around-a-rosy *n.* a singing game played by children, in which the players hold hands and dance in a circle, falling down at the end of the song.

ring bearer *n.* the person, typically a young boy, who ceremoniously bears the rings at a wedding.

ring binder *n.* a loose-leaf binder with ring-shaped clasps.

ring-bolt /'rɪŋ,bɒlt/ *n.* a bolt with a ring attached for passing a rope through.

ring-bone /'rɪŋ,bɒn/ *n.* osteoarthritis of the pastern joint of a horse, causing swelling and lameness.

ring circuit *n.* an electric circuit serving a number of outlets, with one fuse in the supply to the circuit.

ring-dove /'rɪŋ,dəv/ *n.* a dove or pigeon with a ringlike mark on the neck, in particular: ■ a captive or feral African collared dove (*Streptopelia roseogrisea*). ■ Brit. the wood pigeon.

ringed plover *n.* a small plover (genus *Charadrius*) found chiefly in Eurasia, with white underparts and a black collar, breeding on sand or shingle beaches.

ringer /'rɪŋgə/ *n.* 1 informal an athlete or horse fraudulently substituted for another in a competition. ■ a person's or thing's double, esp. an impostor: he's a **ringer** for the French actor Fernandel. ■ a person who is highly proficient at a particular skill or sport and is brought in to supplement a team or group of people. 2 a person who rings something, esp. a bell-ringer. ■ a device for ringing a bell, esp. on a telephone.

Ringier's solution /'rɪŋgəz/ *n.* Biology a physiological saline solution that typically contains, in addition to sodium chloride, salts of potassium and calcium.

ring finger *n.* the finger next to the little finger, esp. of the left hand, on which the wedding band is worn.

ring flash *n.* Photography a circular electronic flash tube that fits around a camera lens to give shadowless lighting of a subject near the lens.

ring-gilt /'rɪŋɡɪt/ *n.* (pl. same or **ringgits**) the basic monetary unit of Malaysia, equivalent to 100 sen.

ring-hals /'rɪŋ,hæls/ (also **rinkhals** /'rɪŋ,kæls/) *n.* a large nocturnal spitting cobra (*Hemachatus haemachatus*) of southern Africa, with one or two white rings across the throat.

ringing /'rɪŋɪŋɡ/ *adj.* [attrib.] having or emitting a clear resonant sound: a **ringing** voice. ■ figurative (of a statement) forceful and unequivocal. —**ringingly** *adv.*

ring-leader /'rɪŋ,lɪdər/ *n.* a person who initiates or leads an illicit or illegal activity.

ring-let /'rɪŋlɪt/ *n.* 1 a lock of hair hanging in a corkscrew-shaped curl. 2 a brown butterfly (*Aphantopus*, *Erebia*, and other genera, family Nymphalidae) that has wings bearing eyespots that are typically highlighted by a paler color. —**ring-letted** *adj.*; **ring-lety** *adj.*

ring-master /'rɪŋ,mæstər/ *n.* the person directing a circus performance.

ring modulator *n.* an electronic circuit, esp. in a musical instrument, that incorporates a closed loop of four diodes and can be used for the balanced mixing and modulation of signals.

ring-neck (also **ringneck**) *n.* any of a number of ring-necked birds, in particular a ring-necked pheasant (see **PHEASANT**) and a ring-necked duck (*Aythya collaris*).

ring-necked *adj.* used in names of birds and reptiles with a band or bands of color around the neck.

Ring of Fire the zone of volcanic activity surrounding the Pacific Ocean.

ring ouzel (also **ring ouzel**) *n.* a European thrush (*Turdus torquatus*) that resembles a blackbird with a white crescent across the breast, inhabiting upland moors and mountainous country.

ring pull *n.* a ring-shaped pull tab on a can.

ring road *n.* a bypass encircling a town.

ring-side /'rɪŋ,sɪd/ *n.* (often as *adj.*) the area immediately beside a boxing ring or circus ring. ■ figurative an advantageous position from which to observe or monitor something: a **ring-side** seat. —**ring-side** *n.*

ringer /'rɪŋɡər/ *n.* archaic 1 a member of a political or price-fixing ring. 2 a boxer.

ring-tail /'rɪŋ,təl/ *n.* 1 any of a number of mammals or birds having a tail marked with a ring or rings, in particular: ■ a ring-tailed cat or lemur. ■ a female hen harrier or related harrier. ■ a golden eagle up to its third year. 2 (also **ringtail** or **ring-tailed possum**) a nocturnal tree-dwelling Australian possum (*Pseudocheirus* and other genera, family Petauridae) that habitually curls its prehensile tail into a ring or spiral. Its several species include the common **ringtail** (*P. peregrinus*) of southern Australia and Tasmania.

ring-tailed *adj.* used in names of mammals and birds that have the tail banded in contrasting colors.

ring-tailed cat *n.* a North American cacomistle (*Bassariscus astutus*), with a dark-ringed tail.

ring-tailed lemur *n.* a gregarious lemur (*Lemur catta*) with a gray coat, black rings around the eyes, and distinctive black-and-white banding on the tail.

ring-toss /'rɪŋ,tɒs/ *n.* a game in which rings are tossed at an upright peg.

ring-work /'rɪŋ,wɜːk/ *n.* Archaeology the circular entrenchment of a minor medieval castle.

ringworm /'rɪŋ,wɜːm/ *n.* a contagious itching skin disease occurring in small circular patches, caused by any of a number of fungi and affecting chiefly the scalp or the feet. Also called **TINEA**.

rink /rɪŋk/ *n.* (also **ice rink** or **hockey rink**) an enclosed area of ice for skating, ice hockey, or curling. ■ (also **roller rink**) a smooth enclosed floor for roller skating. ■ a building containing either of these. ■ (also **bowling rink**) the strip of a bowling green used for playing a match.

rink-hals /'rɪŋ,kæls/ *n.* variant spelling of **RINGHALS**.

rink rat *n.* informal a young person who spends time around an ice-hockey rink in the hope of meeting players, watching practice, and spending time on the ice.

rinky-dink /'rɪŋkɪ,dɪŋk/ *adj.* informal old-fashioned, amateurish, or shoddy.

rinse /rɪnz/ *v.* wash (something) with clean water to remove soap, detergent, dirt, or impurities. ■ wash (something) quickly, esp. without soap. ■ clean (one's mouth) by swilling around and then spitting out a mouthful of water or mouthwash. ■ n. 1 an act of rinsing something. 2 an antiseptic solution for cleansing the mouth. 3 a preparation for conditioning or temporarily tinting the hair.

Rio Branco /'rɪo 'brɒŋkɒ/ *n.* a city in western Brazil; pop. 197,000.

Rio de Janeiro /'rɪo dɪ (d)ʒə'nerɒ/ *n.* a state in eastern Brazil, on the Atlantic coast. ■ (also **Rio**) its capital; pop. 5,481,000. The chief port of Brazil, it was the country's capital from 1763 until 1960, when it was replaced by Brasília.

Río de la Plata /'rɪo dɪ lə 'plɑː/ *n.* Spanish name for the River Plate (see **PLATE, RIVER**).

Río de Oro /'rɪo dɪ 'ɔːrɒ/ *n.* an arid region of northwestern Africa that forms the southern part of Western Sahara. It was united with Saguia el Hamra in 1958 to form the province of Spanish Sahara (now Western Sahara).

Rio Grande /'rɪo 'grænd(e)/ *n.* a river in North America that rises in the Rocky Mountains of southwestern Colorado and flows 1,880 miles (3,030 km) southeast to the Gulf of Mexico.

Rio Muni /'rɪo 'mʊni/ *n.* the part of Equatorial Guinea that lies on the mainland of West Africa.

Rio Negro /'rɪo 'negrɒ/ *n.* a river in South America that rises as the Guainia in eastern Colombia and flows for about 1,400 miles (2,255 km) to join the Amazon River near Manaus.

Rio Rancho /'rɪo 'ræŋtʃo/ *n.* a city in north central New Mexico; pop. 51,765.

riot /'rɪə/ *n.* 1 a violent disturbance of the peace by a crowd: riots



ring-tailed lemur