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*Based on the Second Edition of the Random House
Dictionary of the English Language*

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class (klas, kläs), *n.* 1. a number of persons or things regarded as forming a group by reason of common attributes, characteristics, qualities, or traits; kind; sort; a group of objects used in daily living. 2. a group of students meeting regularly to study a subject under the guidance of a teacher. *The class had arrived on time for the lecture.* 3. the period during which a group of students meets for instruction. 4. a meeting of a group of students for instruction. 5. a classroom. 6. a number of pupils in a school, or of students in a college, pursuing the same studies, ranked together, or graduated in the same year. *She graduated from Ohio State, class of '72.* 7. a social stratum sharing basic economic, political, or cultural characteristics, and having the same social position. *Artisans form a distinct class in some societies.* 8. the system of dividing society; caste. 9. social rank, esp. high rank. 10. the members of a given group in society, regarded as a single entity. 11. any division of persons or things according to rank or grade. *Hotels were listed by class, with the most luxurious ones listed first.* 12. excellence; exceptional merit. *She's a good performer, but she lacks class.* 13. *Hindus*, any of the four social divisions, the Brahman, Kshatriya, Vaishya, and Shudra, of Hindu society; varna. Cf. *caste* (def. 2). 14. Informal. elegance, grace, or dignity, as in dress and behavior. *He may be a slob, but his brother has real class.* 15. any of several grades of accommodations available on ships, airplanes, and the like. *We bought tickets for first class.* 16. Informal. the best or among the best of its kind. *This new plane is the class of the wide-bodied airliners.* 17. Biol. the usual major subdivision of a phylum or division in the classification of organisms, usually consisting of several orders. 18. *Brit. Unit.* any of three groups into which candidates for honors degrees are divided according to merit on the basis of final examinations. 19. drafted or conscripted soldiers, or persons available for draft or conscription, all of whom were born in the same year. 20. *Gram.* See *form class*. 21. *Ecles.* classis. 22. (in early Methodism) one of several small companies, each composed of about 12 members under a leader, into which each society or congregation was divided. 23. Statistics. a group of measurements that fall within a specified interval. 24. *Math.* a set; a collection. 25. the classes, the higher ranks of society, as distinguished from the masses. —*adj.* 26. Informal. of high quality, integrity, status, or style: *class players on a mediocre team.* —*vt.* 27. to place or arrange in a class; classify: *to class justice with wisdom.* —*vi.* 28. to take or have a place in a particular class: *those who class as believers.* 29. class up, *Informal.* to improve the quality, tone, or status of; add elegance, dignity, style, etc. to: *The new carpet and curtains really class up this room.* [1890-1900; earlier *classis*, pl. *classes* < L. *classis*, division, fleet, army; sing. *class* back formation from pl.] —*class-a-ble*, *adj.* —*class'er*, *n.* —*Syn.* 27. group, categorize, type, rank, rate. —*Usage.* See *collective noun*.

class, 1. classis. 2. classis. 3. classification. 4. classified.

class' act', *Informal.* something or someone regarded as outstanding or elegant in quality or performance. [1975-80]

class' ac'tion, a legal proceeding in which persons representing interests common to a large group participate as representatives of the group or class. [1950-55] —*class-ac'tion* (klas'ak'shon, kläs'-), *adj.*

class-book (klas'bōok', kläs'-), *n.* 1. a book kept by a teacher recording student attendance, grades, etc. 2. a souvenir book of a graduating class, containing photographs, articles, etc. [1825-35, *Amer.*; CLASS + BOOK]

class' con'flict. See *class struggle* (def. 1). [1895-1900]

class' con'sciousness, 1. awareness of one's own social or economic rank in society. 2. a feeling of identification and solidarity with those belonging to the same social or economic class as oneself. [1885-90] —*class-con'scious* (klas'kon'sheus, kläs'-), *adj.*

class' day', (sometimes cap.), *n.* a day during the commencement season on which the members of the graduating class in U.S. colleges and schools celebrate the completion of their course with special ceremonies. [1825-35, *Amer.*]

class-ic (klas'ik), *adj.* 1. of the first or highest quality; of rank; a classic piece of work. 2. serving as a standard, model, or guide: the classic method of teaching arithmetic. 3. of or pertaining to Greek and Roman antiquity, esp. with reference to literature and art. 4. modeled upon or imitating the style or thought of ancient Greece and Rome: The 17th and 18th centuries were obsessed with classic ideals. 5. of or adhering to an established set of artistic or scientific standards or methods: a classic example of mid-Victorian architecture. 6. basic; fundamental: the classic rules of warfare. 7. of enduring interest, quality, or style: a classic design; classic clothes. 8. of literary or historical renown: the classic haunts of famous writers. 9. traditional or typical: a classic comedy routine. 10. definitive: the classic reference work on ornithology. 11. of or pertaining to automobiles distinguished by elegant styling, outstanding engineering, and fine workmanship that were built between about 1925 and 1948. —*n.* 12. an author or literary work of the first rank, esp. one of demonstrably enduring quality. 13. an author or literary work of ancient Greece or Rome. 14. classics, the literature and languages of ancient Greece and Rome (often prec. by the). 15. an artist or artistic production considered a standard. 16. a work that is honored as definitive in its field: His handbook on mushrooms is a classic. 17. something noteworthy of its kind and worth remembering: His reply was a classic. 18. an article, as of clothing, unchanging in style: Her suit was a simple classic. 19. a typical or traditional event, esp. one that is considered to be highly prestigious or the most important of its kind: The World Series is the fall classic of baseball. 20. Archaic. a classicist. Also, classical (for defs. 1-5, 8, 10). [1605-16; < F *classique* < L. *classicus* belonging to

a class, belonging to the first or highest class, equiv. to *class(is)* CLASS + *-icus* -ic]

class-ic-al (klas'ikəl), *adj.* 1. of, pertaining to, or characteristic of Greek and Roman antiquity: classical literature; classical languages. 2. conforming to ancient Greek and Roman models in literature or art, or to later systems modeled upon them. 3. marked by classicism: classical simplicity. 4. Music. a. of, pertaining to, or constituting the formally and artistically more sophisticated and enduring types of jazz, as distinguished from popular and folk music and jazz. Classical music includes symphonies, operas, sonatas, and cycles and lieder. b. of, pertaining to, characterized by, or adhering to the well-ordered, chiefly homophonic musical style of the latter half of the 18th and the early 19th centuries: Haydn and Mozart are classical composers. 5. Archit. a. noting or pertaining to the architecture of ancient Greece and Rome, esp. the religious and public architecture, characterized by the employment of orders. Cf. *order* (def. 27b). b. noting or pertaining to any of several styles of architecture closely imitating the architecture of ancient Greece or Rome; neoclassic. c. noting or pertaining to architectural details or motifs adopted from ancient Greek or Roman models. d. (of an architectural design) simple, reposeful, well-proportioned, or symmetrical in a manner suggesting the architecture of ancient Greece and Rome. 6. (often cap.) pertaining to or designating the style of fine arts, esp. painting and sculpture, developed in Greece during the 5th and 4th centuries B.C., chiefly characterized by balanced composition, the separation of figures from an architectural background, and the naturalistic rendering of anatomical details, spatial movement, and distribution of weight in a figure. Cf. *archaic* (def. 4), *Hellenistic* (def. 5). 7. of or pertaining to a style of literature and art characterized by conformity to established treatments, taste, or critical standards, and by attention to form with the general effect of regularity, simplicity, balance, proportion, and controlled emotion (contrasted with *romantic*). 8. pertaining to or versed in the ancient classics: a classical scholar. 9. relating to or teaching academic branches of knowledge, as the humanities, general sciences, etc., as distinguished from technical subjects. 10. (of a given field of knowledge) accepted as standard and authoritative, as distinguished from novel or experimental: classical physics. 11. classic (def. 1-5, 8, 10). 12. *Ecles.* pertaining to a classis. —*n.* 13. classical music: a jazz pianist who studied classical for years. [1880-90; CLASSIC + *-al*]. —*class'ic-al-i-ty*, *class'ic-al-ness*, *n.* —*class'ic-al-ly*, *adv.*

class'ic-al condi'tioning, conditioning (def. 2). [1945-50]

class'ic-al econo'mics, a system or school of economic thought developed by Adam Smith, Jeremy Bentham, Thomas Malthus, and David Ricardo, advocating minimum governmental intervention, free enterprise, and free trade, considering labor the source of wealth and dealing with problems concerning overpopulation. —*class'ic-al econo'mist*.

Class'ic-al Greek', 1. the form of Greek used in classical literature, esp. the literary Attic Greek of the 5th and 4th centuries B.C. 2. (loosely) ancient Greek.

Class'ic-al Lat'in, the form of Latin used in classical literature, esp. the literary Latin of the 1st century B.C. and the 1st and 2nd centuries A.D.

class'ic-al mechan'ics, *Physics*. the branch of mechanics that is based on Newton's laws of motion and that is applicable to systems that are so large that Planck's constant can be regarded as negligibly small (distinguished from *quantum mechanics*). Also called *Newtonian mechanics*. [1930-35]

class'ic-al Na'huatl, Aztec (def. 2).

class'ic-al San'skrit, Sanskrit of an ancient period earlier than that of the Prakrits and later than Vedic.

class'ic-ism (klas'ik-siz'm), *n.* 1. the principles or styles characteristic of the literature and art of ancient Greece and Rome. 2. adherence to such principles. 3. the classical style in literature and art, or adherence to its principles contrasted with *romanticism*. Cf. *class'ic-al* (def. 7). 4. a Greek or Latin idiom or form, esp. one used in some other language. 5. classical scholarship or learning. Also, *class'ic-al-ism* (klas'ikəl-iz'm). [1820-30; CLASSIC + *-ism*] —*class'ic-ic-ist* (klas'ik-sis'tik), *adj.*

class'ic-ize (klas'ik-siz'), *v.* -ized, -iz-ing. —*vt.* 1. to make classic. —*vi.* 2. to conform to the classic style. Also, *esp. Brit.*, *class'ic-siz'e*. [1850-55; CLASSIC + *-ize*] —*class'ic-i-fication* (klas'ik-fi-kā'shon), *n.* 1. the act of classifying. 2. the result of classifying or being classified. 3. one of the groups or classes into which things may be or have been classified. 4. Biol. the assignment of organisms to groups within a system of categories distinguished by structure, origin, etc. The usual series of categories is phylum (or, esp. in botany, division), class, order, family, genus, species, and variety. See *table under taxonomy*. 5. the category, as restricted, confidential, secret, or top secret, to which information, a document, etc., is assigned, as by a government or military agency, based on the degree of protection considered necessary to safeguard it from unauthorized use. 6. Library Science. any of various systems for arranging books and other materials, esp. according to subject or format. [1780-90; < L. *classis*(s) CLASS + *-fication*] —*class'ic-i-fica-tory* (klas'ik-fi-kā-tōr-ē, -tōr-ē, klas'ik-fi- or, esp. *Brit.*, klas'ik-fi-kā-tōr-ē), *adj.* —*class'ic-i-fica-tion-ally*, *adv.* —*class'ic-i-fica-tion-al*, *adj.*

class-ified (klas'ifid'), *adj.* 1. arranged or distributed in classes or according to class: We plan to review all the classified specimens in the laboratory. 2. of or designating the part or parts of a publication that

contain advertisements or lists arranged by category: Look under "plumbers" in the classified pages of the telephone book. He found a job for a "typist" in the classified section of the newspaper. 3. (of information, a document, etc.) a. bearing the designation classified. b. available only to authorized persons. Cf. *classification* (def. 5). 4. confidential or secret: The firm's promotional budget for next year is classified information. 5. identified as belonging to a specific group or category, as one to which benefits or restrictions apply: Classified buildings are eligible for state-funded restoration. The bank has a list of classified customers to whom it will not make large loans. —*n.* 6. See *classified ad*. [1885-90; 1940-45 for def. 3; CLASSIFY + *-ed*]

class'ified ad', an advertisement in a newspaper, magazine, or the like generally dealing with offers of or requests for jobs, houses, apartments, used cars, and the like. Also called *classified*, *class'ified advertise-ment*, *want ad*. [1905-10]

class'ified ad'vertising, 1. classified ads collectively. 2. the business or practice of selling space for classified ads. 3. the department of a newspaper or other publication that handles classified advertising. [1930-35, *Amer.*]

class'ifier (klas'if-er), *n.* 1. a person or thing that classifies. 2. a device for separating solids of different characteristics by controlled rates of settling. 3. *Gram.* (in Chinese, Japanese, and other languages) a word or morpheme that corresponds to a semantic class of nouns and regularly accompanies any noun of that class in certain syntactic constructions, such as those of numeration. [1810-20; CLASSIFY + *-er*]

class'ify (klas'if-i), *v.t.* -fied, -fy-ing. 1. to arrange or organize by classes; order according to class. 2. to assign a classification to (information, a document, etc.). Cf. *classification* (def. 5). 3. to limit the availability of (information, a document, etc.) to authorized persons. [1790-1800; < L. *classis*(s) CLASS + *-fy*] —*class'ify-a-ble*, *adj.*

—*Syn.* 1. class, rank, rate, categorize, group.

class' inclu'sion, *Logic*. the relation between two classes in which all members of one class are included in the other, as in the proposition "All humans are animals."

class' in'terval, *Statistics*. one of a set of intervals of arbitrary width into which the range of a sample of measurement is partitioned. [1925-30]

class'is (klas'is), *n.* pl. *class-es* (klas'ēz). (in certain Reformed churches) 1. the organization of pastors and elders that governs a group of local churches; a presbytery. 2. the group of churches governed by such an organization. [1585-95; < L. *classis*]

class'ism (klas'iz-əm), *n.* 1. a biased or discriminatory attitude based on distinctions made between social or economic classes. 2. the viewing of society as being composed of distinct classes. [1835-45; CLASS + *-ism*]

class-less (klas'lis, kläs'-), *adj.* 1. of or pertaining to a society in which there are no economic or social distinctions. 2. (of an individual) not having membership in a social or economic class or group. [1875-80; CLASS + *-less*] —*class-less-ness*, *n.*

class' mark', *Statistics*. the midpoint of a class interval. [1885-90, for an earlier sense]

class'mate (klas'mat', kläs'-), *n.* a member of the same class at a school or college. [1705-15, *Amer.*; CLASS + *MATE*]

class' mean'ing, *Gram.* 1. the meaning of a grammatical category or a form class, common to all forms showing the category or to all members of the form class, as in the meaning of number common to all Latin nouns or the meaning of singular common to all Latin singular nouns and verb forms. 2. the part of the meaning of a linguistic form that it has by virtue of membership in a particular form class, as the past tense meaning of *ate*. [1925-30]

class-room (klas'rōom', -rōom', kläs'-), *n.* 1. a room, as in a school or college, in which classes are held. 2. any place where one learns or gains experience: The sea is the sailor's classroom. [1865-70, *Amer.*; CLASS + *ROOM*]

class' strug'gle, 1. Also called *class conflict*. conflict between different classes in a community resulting from different social or economic positions and reflecting opposed interests. 2. Also called *class' war*, *class' war/fara*. (in Marxist thought) the struggle for political and economic power carried on between capitalists and workers. [1840-50]

class-work (klas'wŭrk', kläs'-), *n.* 1. the written or oral work done in a classroom by a student (distinguished from *homework*). 2. the work done in a classroom by the students and teacher jointly. [CLASS + *WORK*]

class-y (klas'ē, kläs'ē), *adj.* *class-i-er*, *class-i-est*. Informal. of high class, rank, or grade; stylish; admirably smart; elegant. [1890-95; CLASS + *-y*] —*class'i-ly*, *adv.* —*class'i-ness*, *n.*

clast (klast), *n.* a grain of sediment, silt, sand, gravel, etc., esp. as a constituent fragment of a clastic rock formation, as distinguished from a chemical or biogenic component of such a formation. [1950-55; prob. back formation from *CLASTIC*]

clastic (klas'tik), *adj.* 1. Biol. breaking up into fragments or separate portions; dividing into parts. 2. pertaining to an anatomical model made up of detachable pieces. 3. Geol. noting or pertaining to rock or rocks

CONCISE PRONUNCIATION KEY: act, cāpe, dāre, pŭrt; set, ēqual; if, īce; ox, ōver, ōrder, oil, bōdy, bōst; out; up; ūber; chīd; sing; shōw; thāt; zh; as in treasŭre. a = a as in alone, e as in system, i as in easily, o as in gallop, u as in circus. * as in fire (fīr), hour (hŭr). † and n can serve as syllabic consonants, as in grade (grād), and button (butn). See the full key inside the front cover.

nea. a combining form meaning "breath, respi
sed in the formation of compound words that c