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EDITED BY

Elizabeth J. Jewell  
Frank Abate

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■ make (something) local in character: *there'd now be a more localized news service.* ■ assign (something) to a particular place: *most vertebrates localize sounds by orienting movements.*

—DERIVATIVES **localizable** adj.; **localization** |,lə'kə'lə'zə'shən| n.

**local option** ▶ n. a choice available to a local administration to accept or reject national legislation (e.g., concerning the sale of alcoholic liquor).

**local time** ▶ n. time as reckoned in a particular region or time zone.

■ time at a particular place as measured from the sun's transit over the meridian at that place, defined as noon.

**Lo-car-no** |lə'kärnō| a resort in southern Switzerland, at the northern end of Lake Maggiore; pop. 14,000.

**locate** |'lə,kat; lō'kāt| ▶ v. [trans.] discover the exact place or position of: *engineers were working to locate the fault.*

■ [with obj. and adverbial of place] (usu. **be located**) situate in a particular place: *these popular apartments are centrally located.* ■ [with obj. and adverbial] place within a particular context: *they locate their policies in terms of wealth creation.* ■ [no obj., with adverbial of place] establish oneself or one's business in a specified place: *his marketing strategy has been to locate in small towns.*

—DERIVATIVES **locatable** |-,lə'tə'bəl; lō'kāt-| adj.  
—ORIGIN early 16th cent.: from Latin *locat-* 'placed,' from the verb *locare*, from *locus* 'place.' The original sense was as a legal term meaning 'rent out,' later (late 16th cent.) 'assign to a particular place,' then 'establish in a place.' The sense 'discover the exact position of' dates from the late 19th cent.

**USAGE:** In formal English, one should avoid using **locate** to mean 'find (a missing object)': *he can't seem to locate his keys.* In precise usage, **locate** means 'discover the exact place or position of' or 'fix the position of, put in place': *the doctors hope to locate the source of the bleeding; the studio should be located on a north-facing slope.*

**loc-ation** |lə'kə'shən| ▶ n. a particular place or position: *the property is set in a convenient location.*

■ an actual place or natural setting in which a film or broadcast is made, as distinct from a simulation in a studio: *the movie was filmed entirely on location.* ■ the action or process of placing someone or something in a particular position: *the location of new housing beyond the existing built-up areas.* ■ a position or address in computer memory.

—DERIVATIVES **locational** |-,lə'shənəl; -stənəl| adj.

—ORIGIN late 16th cent.: from Latin *locatio* (n-), from the verb *locare* (see **LOCATE**).

**locative** |'lə'kə'tiv| Grammar ▶ adj. relating to or denoting a case in some languages of nouns, pronouns, and adjectives, expressing location.

▶ n. (the **locative**) the locative case.

■ a word in the locative case.

—ORIGIN early 19th cent.: from **LOCATE**, on the pattern of *vocative*.

**loc-ator** |'lə,kə'tər; lō'kə-| ▶ n. a device or system for locating something, typically by means of radio signals.

**loc. cit.** ▶ abbr. in the passage already cited.

—ORIGIN from Latin *loco citato*.

**loch** |lāk; lākH| ▶ n. Scottish a lake.

■ (also **sea loch**) an arm of the sea, esp. when narrow or partially landlocked.

—ORIGIN late Middle English: from Scottish Gaelic. **loch-ia** |'lə'kə; -lək-| ▶ n. Medicine the normal discharge from the uterus after childbirth.

—DERIVATIVES **lochial** adj.

—ORIGIN late 17th cent.: modern Latin, from Greek *lokhia*, neuter plural (used as a noun) of *lokhios* 'of childbirth.'

**Loch Ness** |lāk 'nes; lākH| a deep lake in northwestern Scotland, in the Great Glen. Forming part of the Caledonian Canal, it is 24 miles (38 km) long, with a maximum depth of 755 feet (230 m). The lake has long been rumored to be the home of the Loch Ness monster.

**Loch Ness mon-ster** a large creature alleged to live in the deep waters of Loch Ness. Reports of its existence date from the time of St. Columba (6th century); despite recent scientific expeditions, there is still no proof of its existence.

**loc-i** |'lə,sɪ; -sē; -kē; -ki| plural form of **LOCUS**.

**loc-i clas-si-ci** |'lə,sɪ 'klæs,sɪ; 'lə,sē 'klæs,sē; 'lə,kē 'klæs,i,kē; 'lə,kī 'klæs,i,kī| plural form of **LOCUS CLASSICUS**.

**lock** |lāk| ▶ n. 1 a mechanism for keeping a door, lid, etc., fastened, typically operated only by a key of a particular form: *the key turned firmly in the lock.*

■ a similar device used to prevent the operation or movement of a vehicle or other machine: *a bicycle lock.* ■ (in wrestling and martial arts) a hold that prevents an opponent from moving a limb. ■ [in sing.] archaic a number of interlocked or jammed items: *a street closed by a lock of carriages.*

2 a short confined section of a canal or other waterway in which the water level can be changed by the use of gates and sluices, used for raising and lowering vessels between two gates.

■ an airlock.

3 (a **lock**) informal a person or thing that is certain to succeed; a certainty.

4 archaic a mechanism for exploding the charge of a gun.

▶ v. 1 [trans.] fasten or secure (something) with a lock: *she closed and locked her desk* | [as adj.] (**locked**) *behind locked doors.*

■ (**lock something up**) shut and secure something, esp. a building, by fastening its doors with locks: *the diplomatic personnel locked up their building and walked off* | [intrans.] *you could lock up for me when you leave.*

■ [with obj. and adverbial] enclose or shut in by locking or fastening a door, lid, etc.: *the prisoners are locked up overnight* | *Phil locked away the takings every night.*

■ (**lock someone up/away**) imprison someone.

■ (**lock something up/away**) invest money in something so that it is not easily accessible: *vast sums of money locked up in pension funds.* ■ (**lock someone down**) confine prisoners to their cells, esp. so as to gain control. ■ [intrans.] (of a door, window, box, etc.) become or be able to be secured through activation of a lock: *the door will automatically lock behind you...*

2 make or become rigidly fixed or immovable: [trans.] *he locked his hands behind her neck* | [intrans.] *their gaze locked for several long moments.*

■ [trans.] (**lock someone/something in**) engage or entangle in (an embrace or struggle): *they were locked in a legal battle.* ■ [trans.] trap or fix firmly or irrevocably. *this may tend to lock in many traders with their present holdings.* ■ [trans.] (**lock someone/something into**) cause to become caught or involved in: *they were now locked into the system.* ■ [trans.] (of land, hills, ice, etc.) enclose; surround: *the vessel was locked in ice.*

3 [intrans.] [with adverbial of direction] go through a lock on a canal: *we locked through at Moore Haven.*

—PHRASES **have a lock on** informal have an unbreakable hold on or total control over. **lock horns** engage in conflict. **lock, stock, and barrel** including everything; completely: *the place is owned lock, stock, and barrel by an oil company.* [ORIGIN: referring to the complete mechanism of a firearm.] **under lock and key** securely locked up.

**lock onto** **locate** (a target) by radar or similar means and then track.

**lock someone out** 1 keep someone out of a room or building by locking the door. 2 (of an employer) subject employees to a lockout.

**lock someone out of** exclude someone from: *those now locked out of the job market.*

—DERIVATIVES **lockable** adj.; **lockless** adj.

—ORIGIN Old English *loc*, of Germanic origin; related to German *Loch* 'hole.'

**lock<sup>2</sup>** ▶ n. a piece of a person's hair that coils or hangs together: *she pushed back a lock of hair.*

■ (**locks**) chiefly poetic/literary a person's hair: *flowing locks and a long white beard.* ■ a tuft of wool or cotton.

■ (**locks**) short for **DREADLOCKS**.

—DERIVATIVES **locked** adj. [in combination] *his curly-locked comrades.*

—ORIGIN Old English *loc*, of Germanic origin; related to Dutch *lok*, German *Locke*, possibly also to **LOCK<sup>1</sup>**.

**lock-age** |'lə'kɪj| ▶ n. the construction or use of locks on waterways.

■ the amount of rise and fall of water levels resulting from the use of locks. ■ money paid as a toll for the use of a lock.

**lock-down** |'lāk,daʊn| ▶ n. the confining of prisoners to their cells, typically in order to regain control during a riot.

**Locke** |lāk|, John (1632–1704), English philosopher; a founder of empiricism and political liberalism. His *Two Treatises of Government* (1690) argues that the authority of rulers has a human origin and is limited. In *An Essay concerning Human Understanding* (1690) he argued that all knowledge is derived from sense-experience.

—DERIVATIVES **Lockean** |'lə'kēən| adj.

**lock-er** |'lākər| ▶ n. 1 a small lockable cupboard or compartment, typically as one of a number placed together for public or general use, e.g., in schools, gymnasiums, or train stations.

■ a chest or compartment on a ship or boat for clothes, stores, equipment, or ammunition.

2 a device that locks something.

—ORIGIN late Middle English: probably related to Flemish *loker*.

**Lock-er-bie** |'lākərbē| a town in southwestern Scotland; pop. 4,000. In 1988, a US airliner, destroyed by a terrorist bomb, crashed on the town and killed all those on board as well as 11 people on the ground.

**lock-er room** ▶ n. a room containing lockers for the storage of personal belongings, esp. in schools or gymnasiums.

▶ adj. [attrib.] regarded as characteristic of or suited to a men's locker room, esp. as being coarse or ribald: *locker-room humor.*

**lock-et** |'lākət| ▶ n. 1 a small ornamental case, typically made of gold or silver, worn around a person's neck on a chain and used to hold things of sentimental value, such as a photograph or lock of hair.

2 a metal plate or band on a scabbard.

—ORIGIN late Middle English (sense 2): from Old French *loquet*, diminutive of *loc* 'latch, lock,' of Germanic origin; related to **LOCK<sup>1</sup>**. Sense 1 dates from the late 17th cent.

**lock-in** ▶ n. the act or fact of locking in a person or thing. ■ an arrangement according to which a person or company is obliged to negotiate or trade only with a specific company. ■ a protest demonstration in which a group locks itself within an office, building, or factory.

**lock-jaw** |'lāk,jō| ▶ n. nontechnical term for **TRISMUS**.

**lock-knit** ▶ adj. [attrib.] (of a fabric) knitted with an interlocking stitch.

**lock-nut** |'lāk,nʌt| ▶ n. a nut screwed down on another to keep it tight.

■ a nut designed so that, once tightened, it cannot be accidentally loosened.

**lock-out** |'lāk,əʊt| ▶ n. 1 the exclusion of employees by their employer from their place of work until certain terms are agreed to.

2 a device used to ensure that machines remain inoperable while repairs or adjustments are made.

**Lock-port** |'lāk,pɔ:t| a city in western New York, northeast of Buffalo, on the Erie Canal; pop. 24,426.

**lock-set** |'lāk,set| ▶ n. a complete locking system, including knobs, plates, and a locking mechanism, esp. for a door.

**lock-smith** |'lāk,smɪθ| ▶ n. a person who makes and repairs locks.

**lock-step** |'lāk,step| ▶ n. a way of marching with each person as close as possible to the one in front: *the trio marched in lockstep* | [as adv.] *hundreds of shaven-headed youths march lockstep into the stadium.* ■ figurative close adherence to and emulation of another's actions: *they raised prices in lockstep with those of foreign competitors* | [as adv.] *the party touted a lockstep unity.*

**lock-stitch** ▶ n. a stitch made by a sewing machine by firmly linking together two threads or stitches.

**lock-up** |'lāk,ʌp| ▶ n. 1 a jail, esp. a temporary one.

2 the locking up of premises for the night.

■ the time of doing this: *hurrying back to their dorms before lockup.*

3 the action of becoming fixed or immovable: *anti-lock braking helps prevent wheel lockup.*

4 an investment in assets that cannot readily be realized or sold on in the short term.

**Lock-yer** |'lə'kyər|, Sir (Joseph) Norman (1836–1920), English astronomer. His spectroscopic analysis of the sun led to his discovery of a new element, which he named *helium*.

**lo-co** ▶ adj. informal crazy.

—ORIGIN late 19th cent.: from Spanish, 'insane.'

**lo-co-mo-tion** |,lə'kə'mō'shən| ▶ n. movement or the ability to move from one place to another: *the muscles that are concerned with locomotion* | *he preferred walking to other forms of locomotion.*

—ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: from Latin *loco*, ablative of *locus* 'place' + *motio* (see **MOTION**).

**lo-co-mo-tive** |,lə'kə'mō'tiv| ▶ n. a powered rail vehicle used for pulling trains: *a diesel locomotive.*

▶ adj. [attrib.] of, relating to, or effecting locomotion: *locomotive power.*

■ archaic (of a machine, vehicle, or animal) having the power of progressive motion: *locomotive bivalves have the strongest hinges.*

—ORIGIN early 17th cent. (as an adjective): from modern Latin *locomotivus*, from Latin *loco* (ablative of *locus* 'place') + late Latin *motivus* 'motive,' suggested by medieval Latin *in loco moveri* 'move by change of position.'

**lo-co-mo-tor** |,lə'kə'mō'tər| ▶ adj. [attrib.] chiefly Biology of or relating to locomotion: *locomotor organs.*

—ORIGIN early 19th cent.: from **LOCOMOTION** + **MOTOR**.

**lo-co-mo-tor a-tax-i-a** ▶ n. another term for **TABES DORSALIS**.

See page xxxviii for the **Key to Pronunciation**