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lo-cale \lō-'kal/ *n* [modif. of *F* *local*, fr. *local*, adj.] (1772) 1: a place or locality esp. when viewed in relation to a particular event or characteristic 2: SITE SCENE (the ~ of a story)
local government *n* (1844): the government of a specific local area constituting a subdivision of a major political unit (as a nation or state); also: the body of persons constituting such a government
lo-cal-ize *Brit* var of LOCALIZE
lo-cal-ism \lō-'ka-'li-zəm/ *n* (1823) 1: a: a local idiom b: a local peculiarity of speaking or acting 2: affection or partiality for a particular place; SECTIONALISM
lo-cal-ite \lō-'ka-'li-tē/ *n* (1951): a native or resident of the locality under consideration; LOCAL
lo-cal-ity \lō-'ka-'li-tē/ *n*, *pl* -ties (1628) 1: the fact or condition of having a location in space or time 2: a particular place, situation, or location
lo-cal-ize \lō-'ka-'li-z/ *vb* -ized; -iz-ing *vt* (1792) 1: to make local; orient locally 2: to assign to or keep within a definite locality ~ *vi* 1: to accumulate in or be restricted to a specific or limited area (an infection that ~s in the ear) — **lo-cal-iz-a-bil-i-ty** \lō-'ka-'li-zə-'bi-li-tē/ *n* — **lo-cal-iz-a-ble** \lō-'ka-'li-zə-'bal/ *adj* — **lo-cal-i-za-tion** \lō-'ka-'li-zə-'shən/ *n*
lo-cal-ly \lō-'ka-'li/ *adv* (15c) 1: with respect to a particular place or situation 2: NEARBY 3: in the region of origin
local option *n* (1878): the power granted by a legislature to a political subdivision to determine by popular vote the local applicability of a law on a controversial issue (as the sale of liquor)
local time *n* (1833): time based on the meridian through a particular place as contrasted with that of a time zone
lo-cate \lō-'kāt, lō-'v/ *vb* lo-cat-ed; lo-cat-ing [*L* *locatus*, pp. of *locare* to place, fr. *locus*] *vt* (1652): to establish oneself or one's business; SETTLE ~ *vi* 1: to determine or indicate the place, site, or limits of 2: to set or establish in a particular spot; STATION 3: to seek out and determine the location of 4: to find or fix the place of esp. in a sequence; CLASSIFY — **lo-cat-a-ble** \lō-'kātə-'bal, 'kātə-'bal/ *adj*
lo-ca-tion \lō-'kā-'shən/ *n* (1597) 1: a: a position or site occupied or available for occupancy or marked by some distinguishing feature; SITUATION b: (1) a tract of land designated for a purpose (2) *Austral*: FARM, STATION c: a place outside a motion-picture studio where a picture or part of it is filmed — usu. used in the phrase *on location* 2: the act or process of locating — **lo-ca-tion-al** \lō-'kā-'shənəl, 'shənəl/ *adj* — **lo-ca-tion-al-ly** *adv*
lo-ca-tive \lō-'kā-'ti-v/ *n* [*L* *locus* + *E* -ative (as in *vocative*)] (1804): the locative case; also: a word in that case
locative adj (1841): of or being a grammatical case that denotes place or the place where or wherein
lo-ca-tor also **lo-ca-ter** \lō-'kā-'tər, lō-'v/ *n* (1784): one that locates something (as a mining claim or the course of a road)
loch \lāk, 'lāk/ *n* [*ME* (Sc) *loch*, fr. *ScGael* *loch*; akin to *L* *lacus* lake — more at LAKE] (14c) 1: *Scot*: LAKE 2: *Scot*: a bay or arm of the sea esp. when nearly landlocked
loch-an \lō-'kən/ *n* [*ScGael*, dim. of *loch*] (1670) *Scot*: a small lake
loci *pl* of LOCUS
loch \lāk/ *n* [*ME* *lok*, fr. *OE* *loc*; akin to *OHG* *loc*, *Gk* *lygos* withe, *L* *luxus* dislocated] (bef. 12c) 1: a: a tuft, tress, or ringlet of hair b: *pl* the hair of the head 2: a: cohering bunch (as of wool, cotton, or flax) b: TUFT
lock *n* [*ME* *lok*, fr. *OE* *loc*; akin to *OHG* *loh* enclosure and perh. to *OE* *loc* lock of hair] (bef. 12c) 1: a: a fastening (as for a door) operated by a key or a combination b: the mechanism for exploding the charge or cartridge of a firearm 2: a: an enclosure (as in a canal) with gates at each end used in raising or lowering boats as they pass from level to level b: AIR LOCK 3: a: a locking or fastening together b: an intricate mass of objects impeding each other (as in a traffic jam) c: a hold in wrestling secured on one part of the body; broadly: a controlling hold (his paper... had a ~ on a large part of the state — John Corry) 4: one that is assured of success or favorable outcome
lock *vt* (14c) 1: a: to fasten the lock of b: to make fast with or as if with a lock ~ *up* the house 2: a: to fasten in or out or to make secure or inaccessible by or as if by means of locks (~ed himself away from the curious world) (~ed her husband out) b: to fix in a particular situation or method of operation (a team firmly ~ed in last place) 3: a: to make fast, motionless, or inflexible esp. by the interlacing or interlocking of parts (~ wheels) (~ a knee) b: to hold in a close embrace c: to grapple in combat; also: to bind closely (administration and students were ~ed in conflict) 4: to invest (capital) without assurance of easy convertibility into money 5: to move or permit to pass (as a ship) by raising or lowering in a lock ~ *vi* 1: a: to become locked b: to be capable of being locked 2: INTERLACE, INTERLOCK 3: to go or pass by means of a lock (as in a canal) — **lock-a-ble** \lō-'ka-'bal/ *adj* — **lock** horns: to come into conflict — **lock on** also **lock onto**: to sight and follow (a target) automatically using a sensor (as radar)
lock-box \lāk-'bɒks/ *n* (1872): a box (as a post-office box, strongbox, or safe-deposit box) that locks
lock-down \lō-'daɪn/ *n* (1977): the confinement of prisoners to their cells for all or most of the day as a temporary security measure
locked-in \lāk-'tɪn/ *adj* (1952) 1: not subject to adjustment; FIXED (~ interest rates) 2: unable or unwilling to shift invested funds because of the tax effect of realizing capital gains
lock-er \lō-'kər/ *n* (14c) 1: a: a drawer, cupboard, or compartment that may be closed with a lock; esp.: one for individual storage use b: a chest or compartment on shipboard for compact stowage of articles c: a refrigerated compartment or room for the storage of fresh or frozen foods (a meat ~) 2: one that locks
lock-er-room \lō-'kər-'rūm/ *adj* (1946): of, relating to, or suitable for use in a locker room; esp.: of an earthy or sexual nature (~ talk)
locker room *n* (ca. 1896): a room for changing clothes and for storing clothing and equipment in lockers; esp.: one for use by sports players
lock-et \lō-'kət/ *n* [*MF* *loquet* latch, fr. *MD* *loke*; akin to *OE* *loc*] (1679): a small case usu. of precious metal that has space for a memento and that is worn typically suspended from a chain or necklace
lock-jaw \lāk-'dʒɔ/ *n* (1803): an early symptom of tetanus characterized by spasm of the jaw muscles and inability to open the jaws; also: TETANUS

lock-keep-er \lāk-'kē-pər/ *n* (1794): a person in charge of a lock (as on a canal)
lock-nut \lāk-'nʌt/ *n* (ca. 1864) 1: a nut screwed down hard on another to prevent it from slacking back 2: a nut so constructed that it locks itself when screwed tight against another part
lock-out \lāk-'aʊt/ *n* (1854): the withholding of employment by an employer and the whole or partial closing of his business establishment in order to gain concessions from or resist demands of employees
lock-out *vt* (1868): to subject (a body of employees) to a lockout
lock-ram \lāk-'krəm/ *n* [*ME* *lokerham*, fr. *Lacronan*, town in Brittany] (14c): a coarse plain-woven linen formerly used in England
lock-smith \lāk-'smiθ/ *n* (13c): a person who makes or repairs locks
lock-smith-ing \lāk-'smiθ-ɪŋ/ *n* (ca. 1909): the work or business of a locksmith
lock-step \lāk-'step/ *n* (ca. 1802) 1: a mode of marching in step by a body of men going one after another as closely as possible 2: a standard method or procedure that is mindlessly adhered to or that minimizes individuality — **lockstep** *adj* — **in lockstep**: in perfect or rigid often mindless conformity or unison (politicians marching in lockstep with the party line)
lock-stitch \lāk-'stɪtʃ/ *n* (ca. 1859): a sewing machine stitch formed by the looping together of two threads one on each side of the material being sewn — **lockstitch** *vb*
lock, stock, and barrel *adv* [fr. the principal parts of a flintlock] (1842): WHOLLY, COMPLETELY (the only thing which had not been sold lock, stock, and barrel with the... house was this piano — Marcia Dav-)
lock-up \lāk-'ʌp/ *n* (1839) 1: JAIL; esp.: a local jail where persons are detained prior to court hearing 2: an act of locking; the state of being locked
lo-co \lō-'kō/ *adv* or *adj* [It *ital*, there, fr. *L* *in loco* in the place] (ca. 1801): in the register as written — used as a direction in music
lo-co *n*, *pl* *locos* or *locoes* [MexSp, fr. Sp, crazy] (1844) 1: LOCO-WEED 2: LOCOMO
lo-co *vt* (1884) 1: to poison with locoweeds 2: to make frenzied or crazy
lo-co *adj* [Sp] (1887) *slang*: mentally disordered; CRAZY, FRENZIED
Lo-co-lo-co \lō-'kō-'lō-'kō/ *n*, *pl* -locos [*loco*, a kind of friction match, prob. fr. *Locomotive* + *It* *fuoco*, *foco* fire, fr. *L* *foc* hearth] (1833) 1: a member of a radical group of New York Democrats organized in 1835 in opposition to the regular party organization 2: DEMOCRAT 2
lo-co-ism \lō-'kō-'li-zəm/ *n* (1900): a disease of horses, cattle, and sheep caused by chronic poisoning with locoweeds
lo-co-mote \lō-'kō-'mōt/ *vi* -mot-ed; -mot-ing [back-formation fr. *locomotion*] (1834): to move about
lo-co-mo-tion \lō-'kō-'mō-'shən/ *n* [*L* *locus* + *E* *motio*] (1646) 1: an act or the power of moving from place to place 2: TRAVEL (interest in free ~ and choice of occupation — Zechariah Chafee Jr.)
lo-co-mo-tive \lō-'kō-'mō-'ti-v/ *adj* (1612) 1: LOCOMOTORY 2: of or relating to travel 3: of, relating to, or being a machine that moves about by operation of its own mechanism
locomotive *n* (1829) 1: a self-propelled vehicle that runs on rails and is used for moving railroad cars 2: a school or college cheer characterized by a slow beginning and a progressive increase in speed
lo-co-mo-tor \lō-'kō-'mō-'tər/ *adj* (1870) 1: of, relating to, or functioning in locomotion 2: affecting or involving the locomotor organs
locomotor ataxia *n* (1878): TABES DORSALIS
lo-co-mo-to-ry \lō-'kō-'mō-'tō-'rē/ *adj* (ca. 1836) 1: LOCOMOTOR (~ appendages) 2: capable of moving independently from place to place (~ animals)
lo-co-weed \lō-'kō-'wēd/ *n* (1879): any of several leguminous plants (genera *Astragalus* and *Oxytropis*) of western N. America that cause locosis in livestock
loc-u-lar \lō-'kyu-lər/ *adj* (1784): having or composed of loculi — often used in combination (unilocular)
loc-ule \lō-'kyu-lə/ *n* [*F*, fr. *L* *loculus*] (ca. 1888): LOCULUS; esp.: any of the cells of a compound ovary of a plant — **loc-uled** \lō-'kyu-ləd/ *adj*
loc-u-lu-lal \lō-'kyu-lə-'lāl/ *adj* [*NL* *loculus* + *L* -cidere to cut, fr. *cuedere*] (ca. 1819): dehiscing longitudinally so as to bisect each loculus (~ fruit)
loc-u-lus \lō-'kyu-ləs/ *n*, *pl* -li \lō-'li, -lē/ [*NL*, fr. *L*, dim. of *locus*] (1858): a small chamber or cavity esp. in a plant or animal body
lo-cum \lō-'kəm/ *n* (1901) chiefly *Brit*: LOCUM TENENS
locum *tenens* \lō-'penz, 'ten-, -mənz/ *n*, *pl* *locum* *ten-en-tes* \lō-'ten-, -tēs/ [*ML*, lit., (one) holding a place] (1641): one filling an office for a time or temporarily taking the place of another — used esp. of a doctor or clergyman
lo-cus \lō-'kəs/ *n*, *pl* *lo-ci* \lō-'si, -ki, -kē/ [*L* — more at STALL] (1715) 1: a: the place where something is situated or occurs; SITE, LOCATION (was the culture of medicine in the beginning dispersed from a single focus or did it arise in several loci? — S. C. Harvey) b: a center of activity, attention, or concentration (in democracy the ~ of power is in the people — H. G. Rickover) 2: the set of all points whose location is determined by stated conditions 3: the position in a chromosome of a particular gene or allele
locus class-si-cus \lō-'kṣi-'sī-'kəs/ *n*, *pl* *loci* class-si-ci \lō-'kṣi-'sī-'ki, -kē/ [*NL*] (1853) 1: a passage that has become a standard for the elucidation of a word or subject 2: a classic case or example
locus coe-ru-le-us also **locus co-ru-le-us** \lō-'si-'rū-'lē-'s/ *n* [*NL*, lit., dark blue place] (ca. 1889): a blue area of the brain stem with many norepinephrine-containing neurons
lo-cust \lō-'kʌst/ *n* [*ME*, fr. *L* *locusta*] (14c) 1: SHORT-HORNED GRASS-HOPPER; esp.: a migratory grasshopper often traveling in vast swarms and stripping the areas passed of all vegetation 2: CICADA 3: a: any of various leguminous trees; as (1) CAROB (2) BLACK LOCUST (3) HONEY LOCUST b: the wood of a locust tree
locust bean *n* (1847): CAROB
lo-cu-tion \lō-'kyu-shən/ *n* [*ME* *locucioun*, fr. *L* *locutio*, locutio, fr. *loqui* to speak] (15c) 1: a particular form of expression or a peculiarity of phrasing; esp.: a word or expression characteristic of a region, group, or cultural level 2: style of discourse; PHRASEOLOGY