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1

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between the right atrium and ventricle of the heart.  
 - ORIGIN C17: from *TRI-* + *L. cuspid-* 'cusp'.  
**tricycle** ■ *n.* a vehicle similar to a bicycle, but having three wheels, two at the back and one at the front. > a three-wheeled motor vehicle for a disabled driver. ■ *v.* [often as noun **tricycling**] ride on a tricycle.  
 - DERIVATIVES **tricyclist** *n.*  
**tricyclic** /traɪ'saɪklɪk/ ■ *adj.* Chemistry having three rings of atoms in its molecule. ■ *n.* Medicine any of a class of antidepressant drugs having molecules with three fused rings.  
**tridactyl** /traɪ'daktɪl/ ■ *adj.* Zoology having three toes or fingers.  
 - DERIVATIVES **tridactyly** *n.*  
 - ORIGIN C19: from *TRI-* + *Gk daktulos* 'finger'.  
**trident** ■ *n.* a three-pronged spear, especially as an attribute of Poseidon (Neptune) or Britannia.  
 - ORIGIN ME: from *L. trident-*, from *tri-* 'three' + *dens*, *dent-* 'tooth'.  
**Tridentine** /trɪ'dentɪn, traɪ-/ ■ *adj.* relating to the Council of Trent (1545-63), especially as the basis of Roman Catholic doctrine.  
 - ORIGIN from med. *L. Tridentinus*, from *Tridentum* 'Trent'.  
**Tridentine mass** ■ *n.* the Latin Eucharistic liturgy used by the Roman Catholic Church from 1570 to 1964.  
**triduum** /trɪdjuəm, 'traɪ-/ ■ *n.* (especially in the Roman Catholic Church) a period of three days' observance, specifically Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.  
 - ORIGIN *L.*, from *tri-* 'three' + *dies* 'day'.  
**tridymite** /trɪdɪmaɪt/ ■ *n.* a high-temperature form of quartz found as thin hexagonal crystals in some igneous rocks and stony meteorites.  
 - ORIGIN C19: from *Ger. Tridymit*, from *Gk tridymos* 'threefold', because it occurs in groups of three crystals.  
**tried** past and past participle of *try*.  
**triene** /traɪɪn/ ■ *n.* Chemistry an unsaturated hydrocarbon containing three double bonds between carbon atoms.  
**triennial** /traɪ'ɛniəl/ ■ *adj.* lasting for or recurring every three years. ■ *n.* a visitation of an Anglican diocese by its bishop every three years.  
 - DERIVATIVES **triennially** *adv.*  
 - ORIGIN C16: from late *L. triennis* (from *L. tri-* 'three' + *annus* 'year') + *-AL*.  
**triennium** /traɪ'ɛniəm/ ■ *n.* (pl. **triennia** /-niə/ or **trienniums**) a period of three years.  
 - ORIGIN C19: from *L.*, from *tri-* 'three' + *annum* 'year'.  
**trier** ■ *n.* 1 a person who always makes an effort, however unsuccessful they may be. 2 a person or body responsible for trying a judicial case.  
**trifa** /traɪfə/ ■ *adj.* another term for *TRIFACED*.  
**trifacial nerves** /traɪ'feɪʃ(ə)/ ■ *pl. n.* another term for **TRIGEMINAL NERVES**.  
**trifecta** /traɪ'fektə/ ■ *n.* *N. Amer. & Austral./NZ* a bet in which the person betting correctly forecasts the first three finishers in the correct order.  
 - ORIGIN 1970s: from *TRI-* + *PERFECTA*.  
**triffid** ■ *n.* (in science fiction) a large predatory plant which is able to move about and has a poisonous sting.  
 - ORIGIN coined by John Wyndham in *Day of the Triffids* (1951).  
**trifid** /traɪfɪd/ ■ *adj.* 1 chiefly Biology partly or wholly split into three divisions or lobes. 2 (also **treifid**) (of an antique spoon) with three notches splitting the end of the handle.  
 - ORIGIN C18: from *L. trifidus*, from *tri-* 'three' + *fid-*, *findere* 'split, divide'.  
**trifle** ■ *n.* 1 a thing of little value or importance. > a small amount. 2 *Brit.* a cold dessert of sponge cake and fruit covered with layers of custard, jelly, and cream. ■ *v.* 1 (**trifle with**) treat without seriousness or respect. 2 *archaic* talk or act frivolously.  
 - DERIVATIVES **trifler** *n.*  
 - ORIGIN ME: noun from *O.Fr. trufle*, by-form of *trufe* 'deceit'; verb from *O.Fr. truffler* 'mock, deceive'.  
**trifling** ■ *adj.* unimportant or trivial.

- DERIVATIVES **triflingly** *adv.*  
**trifocal** ■ *adj.* (of a pair of glasses) having lenses with three parts with different focal lengths. ■ *n.* (**trifocals**) a pair of trifocal glasses.  
**trifoliate** /traɪ'fəʊliət/ ■ *adj.* (of a compound leaf) having three leaflets.  
**triforium** /traɪ'fɔːrɪəm/ ■ *n.* (pl. **triforia** /-rɪə/) a gallery or arcade above the arches of the nave, choir, and transepts of a church.  
 - ORIGIN C18: from Anglo-Latin, of unknown origin.  
**triform** ■ *adj.* technical composed of three parts.  
**trifurcate** ■ *v.* /traɪ'fʊkət/ divide into three branches or forks. ■ *adj.* /-fʊkət/ divided in this way.  
 - DERIVATIVES **trifurcation** *n.*  
 - ORIGIN C19: from *L. trifurcus* 'three-forked' (from *tri-* 'three' + *furca* 'fork') + *-ATE*.  
**trig<sup>1</sup>** ■ *n.* informal trigonometry.  
**trig<sup>2</sup>** *US or archaic* ■ *adj.* neat and smart in appearance. ■ *v.* (**trigs**, **trigging**, **trigged**) make neat and smart.  
 - ORIGIN ME: from *ON tryggr*, rel. to *TRUE*.  
**trigamous** /trɪ'gəməs/ ■ *adj.* having three wives or husbands at the same time.  
 - DERIVATIVES **trigamist** *n.* **trigamy** *n.*  
 - ORIGIN C19 (earlier (C17) as **trigamist** and **trigamy**): from *Gk trigamos* (from *tri-* 'three' + *gamos* 'marriage') + *-OUS*.  
**trigeminal nerves** /traɪ'dʒɛmɪn(ə)/ ■ *pl. n.* Anatomy the pair of large cranial nerves supplying the front part of the head.  
**trigeminal neuralgia** ■ *n.* Medicine neuralgia involving one or more of the branches of the trigeminal nerves.  
**trigeminus** /traɪ'dʒɛmɪnəs/ ■ *n.* (pl. **trigemini** /-naɪ/) Anatomy each of the trigeminal nerves.  
 - ORIGIN C19: from *L.*, lit. 'three born at the same birth', extended to mean 'threefold'.  
**trigger** ■ *n.* 1 a device that releases a spring or catch and so sets off a mechanism, especially in order to fire a gun. 2 an event that causes something to happen. ■ *v.* 1 cause (a device) to function. 2 (also **trigger something off**) cause to happen or exist.  
 - DERIVATIVES **triggered** *adj.*  
 - ORIGIN C17: from dial. *tricker*, from *Du. trekker*, from *trekken* 'to pull'.  
**trigger finger** ■ *n.* 1 the forefinger of the right hand, used to pull the trigger of a gun. 2 Medicine a swelling in a tendon causing a finger to jerk or snap straight when the hand is extended.  
**triggerfish** ■ *n.* (pl. same or **triggerfishes**) a tropical marine fish with a large dorsal spine which can be erected and locked into place. [Family Balistidae: numerous species.]  
**trigger-happy** ■ *adj.* apt to fire a gun or take other drastic action on the slightest provocation.  
**trigger point** ■ *n.* 1 a circumstance which causes an event. 2 Physiology & Medicine a sensitive area of the body, stimulation or irritation of which causes a specific effect in another part.  
**triglyceride** /traɪ'glɪsəraɪd/ ■ *n.* Chemistry an ester formed from glycerol and three fatty acid groups, e.g. the main constituents of natural fats and oils.  
**triglyph** /'trɪglɪf/ ■ *n.* Architecture a tablet in a Doric frieze with three vertical grooves alternating with metopes.  
 - DERIVATIVES **triglyphic** *adj.*  
 - ORIGIN C16: via *L.* from *Gk triglyphos*, from *tri-* 'three' + *gluphē* 'carving'.  
**trigon** /'traɪɡɒn/ ■ *n.* 1 an ancient triangular lyre or harp. 2 a triangular cutting region formed by three cusps on an upper molar tooth. 3 *archaic* a triangle.  
 - ORIGIN C17 (earlier (C16) as **trigonal**): via *L.* from *Gk trigōnon*, neut. of *trigōnos* 'three-cornered'.  
**trigonal** /'trɪɡ(ə)n(ə)/ ■ *adj.* 1 triangular. > chiefly Biology triangular in cross section. 2 denoting a crystal system with three equal axes separated by equal angles that are not right angles.  
 - DERIVATIVES **trigonally** *adv.*  
**trigonometry** /trɪ'ɡɒnɪtri/ ■ *n.* the branch of mathematics concerned with the relations of the sides and angles of triangles and with the relevant functions of any angles.