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or relating to or involving tricks
lice> **b** : skilled in or used for
it defective and unreliable (a ~
rectedly (a ~ knee)

ricks : TRICKSTER
ractice of crafty underhanded in-
DECEPTION

to or characterized by tricks or
~ — **trick-ish-ness** *n*

ling \-k(ə)-lɪn/ [ME *trikelen*, of
all in drops **b** : to flow in a thin
one by one or little by little <cus-
tome slowly <his enthusiasm trickled

mittent stream or movement
to or working on the principle of
2 : relating to or being an effect
ct influences

theory that financial benefits given
vn to smaller businesses and con-

en's Halloween practice of asking
threat of playing tricks on those
rick-or-treater *n*

who tricks as : **a** : a dishonest per-
b : a person (as a stage magician)
sion **c** : a cunning or deceptive s
in the folklore of many cultures
t [tricks, pl. of trick] (1552) **1** ar-
full of tricks : PRANKISH **3** a ar-
kster **b** : difficult to cope with or
by Brit : ornately contrived in tech-

786) **1** : inclined to or marked by
pression of easiness, simplicity, or
the swamp) **b** : TRICK **3** **3** : re-
in doing or handling) : DIFFICULT
<a ~ rhythm> *syn* see SLY —

ness \-tri-kē-nəs/ *n*

ultim, fr. *tri-* + *Gk klados* branch
n order (Tricladida) of turbellarian
an intestine with one anterior and

trick (1854) : of, relating to, or constitut-
icized by three unequal axes in-
sp. of a crystal

trick \-nē-ə/ [L, fr. *Gk triklinion*, fr. *tri-*
LEAN] (1646) **1** : a couch extend-
d by the ancient Romans for reclin-
ished with a triclinalium

thlor- + -san (of unknown origin)]
r C₁₂H₇Cl₃O₂ that is a phenyl ether
pectrum antibacterial agent (as in

-lette (as in *flannelette*) (1919) : a
d esp. for women's clothing

trick \-tri-kə-lər/ *adj* [F *tricolore* three-
color color] (1795) **1** a or *tri-col-*
or marked with three colors **b** of a
d white **2** : of, relating to, or char-
acters flag is a tricolor; *esp* : FRENCH

colors arranged in equal horizontal
2 : a tricolor animal; *esp* : a tricolor

(1823) : having three horns or cor-
n [F *tricornie*, fr. *tricornie* three-

horn horn — more at HORN] (1857)

(1819) : having three corners

icoter to move the legs rapidly, knit,
estriquer to stroke, of Gmc origin;
ore at STRIKE] (1859) **1** : a plain
wool, rayon, silk, or cotton) with a
in clothing (as underwear) **2** : a
h fine warp ribs or of wool and cot-

fr. *tricot*] (1886) : a sturdy suiting
double twill

trig \-tri- (1679) : an old form of back-

tricuspid-, *tricuspid*, fr. *tri-* + *cuspid-*,
cusps <a ~ molar>

tomical structure; *esp* : a tooth hav-

of three flaps that prevents reflux of
the right atrium

fr. *tri-* + *Gk kyklos* wheel — more at
le propelled by pedals or a motor
adj [tri- + *cyclic*] (1891) : being a
ngs in the molecular structure and

) : any of a group of antidepressant
tyline) that contain three fused ben-
f catecholamines (as norepinephrine
uptake by nerve endings, and do not
xidase — called also *tricyclic*

ent-, *tridens* having three teeth, fr. *tri-*
OOTH] (15c) **1** : a 3-pronged spear
e attribute of a sea god (as Neptune)

tridens (1589) : having three teeth,

Tri-den-tine \tri-'den-tīn, -tēn; tri-'d-n-, tri-'d-*adj* [NL *Tridentinus*, fr. L
Tridentum Trent, Italy] (1561) : of or relating to the Roman Catholic
Church council held at Trent from 1545 to 1563 or its decrees

tri-di-men-sion-al \tri-'di-mən-shən-əl, -dī-, -men(t)-shə-nəl/ *adj* [ISV]
(1853) : of, relating to, or concerned with three dimensions (<~ space>)

— **tri-di-men-sion-al-ity** \tri-'di-mən-shən-əl-ə-tē/ *n*

trid-u-m \tri-'jə-wəm, tri-'dyə-/ *n* [L, space of three days, fr. *tri-* +
-duum (akin to *dies* day) — more at DEITY] (1873) : a period of three
days of prayer usu. preceding a Roman Catholic feast

tried \tri-'d/ *adj* [ME, fr. pp. of *trien* to try, test] (15c) **1** : found good,
faithful, or trustworthy through experience or testing (a ~ recipe) **2**
: subjected to trials or distress (a kind but much-tried father)

tried-and-true *adj* (1792) : proved good, desirable, or feasible : shown
or known to be worthy (a ~ sales technique)

tri-ene \tri-'ēn/ *n* (1917) : a chemical compound containing three double
bonds

tri-en-ni-al \tri-'ē-nē-əl/ *adj* (1562) **1** : occurring or being done every
three years (<the ~ convention> **2** : consisting of or lasting for
three years (<a ~ contract> — **triennial** — **tri-en-ni-al-ly** \-nē-ə-lē/

adv

tri-en-ni-um \tri-'ē-nē-əm/ *n*, *pl* -ni-ums or -nia \-nē-ə/ [L, fr. *tri-* + *an-*
nus year — more at ANNUAL] (1847) : a period of three years

tri-er \tri-'ər/ *n* (14c) **1** : someone or something that tries **2** : an im-
plement (as a tapered hollow tube) used in obtaining samples of bulk
material for examination and testing

tri-er-arch \tri-'ər-ər-k/ *n* [L *trierarchus*, fr. *Gk triērarchos*, fr. *triērēs*
trireme (fr. *tri-* + *ērēs* — akin to *L remus* oar) + *-archos* -arch — more
at ROW] (ca. 1656) **1** : the commander of a trireme **2** : an Athenian
citizen who had to fit out a trireme for the public service

tri-er-ar-chy \tri-'ər-ər-kē/ *n* (ca. 1837) : the ancient Athenian plan whereby
individual citizens furnished and maintained triremes as a civic duty

tri-fec-ta \tri-'fek-tə, tri-'f-/ *n* [L *trifecta*] (1974) **1** : a variation of
the perfecta in which a better win by selecting the first three finishers
of a race in the correct order of finish **2** : TRIPLE lb <achieved a
show-business ~ : a platinum record, hit TV series, and an Oscar>

tri-fid \tri-'fid, -fəd/ *adj* [L *trifidus* split into three, fr. *tri-* + *fidere*
to split — more at BITE] (ca. 1753) : being deeply and narrowly cleft into
three teeth, processes, or points (<a spoon with a ~ top>)

tri-ple \tri-'fəl/ *n* [ME *trifle*, *trifle*, fr. AF *trifle*, *trifle* fraud, trick, non-
sense] (14c) **1** : something of little value, substance, or importance **2**
: a dessert typically consisting of plain or sponge cake often soaked
with wine or spirits (as brandy or rum) and topped with layers of pre-
serves, custard, and cream — **a trifle** : to some small degree : SLIGHT-

LY (<a trifle annoyed>)

tri-ple *vb* **tri-pled**; **tri-pling** \-f(ə)-lɪŋ/ [ME *trufen*, *triflen*, fr. AF *trufier*
to trick, talk nonsense] *vi* (14c) **1** a : to talk in a jesting or mocking man-
ner or with intent to delude or mislead **b** : to treat someone or some-
thing as unimportant **2** : to handle something idly ~ *vt* : to spend or
waste in trifling or on trifles — **tri-pler** \-f(ə)-lər/ *n*

syn TRIFLE, TOY, DALY, FLIRT, COQUET *me* deal with or act to-
ward without serious purpose. TRIFLE may imply playfulness, uncon-
cern, indulgent contempt (to trifle with a lover's feelings). TOY implies
acting without full attention or serious exertion of one's powers (a po-
litical novice toying with great issues). DALY suggests indulging in
thoughts or plans merely as an amusement (<dallying with the idea of
building a boat someday>). FLIRT implies an interest or attention that
soon passes to another object (<flirted with one fashionable ism after
another>). COQUET implies attracting interest or admiration without
serious intention (<companies that coquet with environmentalism solely
for public relations>).

trifling *adj* (1535) : lacking in significance or solid worth; as : a : FRIV-
OLOUS (<~ talk> **b** : TRIVIAL (<a ~ gift> **c** chiefly dial : LAZY, SHIFT-
LESS (<a ~ fellow>)

tri-flu-o-per-a-zine \tri-'flū-ō-'pər-ə-zēn, -zən/ *n* [tri- + *fluor-* + *piper-*
azine] (ca. 1957) : a phenothiazine tranquilizer C₂₁H₂₄F₃N₃S chiefly
used to treat psychotic conditions and esp. schizophrenia

tri-flu-ra-lin \tri-'flūr-ə-lən/ *n* [tri- + *fluor-* + *aniline*] (ca. 1961) : an her-
bicide C₁₂H₁₆F₃N₃O₄ used in the control of weeds

tri-fu-cal \tri-'fō-kəl/ *adj* (1826) : having three focal lengths

trifocal *n* (1899) **1** *pl* : eyeglasses with trifocal lenses **2** : a trifocal
glass or lens

tri-fol-i-ate \tri-'fō-lē-ət/ *adj* [tri- + *L folium* leaf — more at BLADE]
(ca. 1753) **1** : having three leaves (<a ~ plant> **2** : TRIFOLIOLATE

trifoliolate orange *n* (ca. 1900) : a thorny Chinese tree (*Poncirus trifo-*
liata) of the rue family related to the citrus that has trifoliolate leaves
and a sour yellow fruit resembling a small orange and that is grown for
ornament or hedges or used as a rootstock for citrus fruits

tri-fol-i-o-late \tri-'fō-lē-ə-lāt/ *adj* [ISV tri- + *LL foliolum* leaflet, dim.
of *L folium* leaf] (ca. 1828) : having three leaflets (<a ~ leaf> — see
LEAF illustration)

tri-fol-i-um \tri-'fō-lē-əm/ *n* [NL, fr. L, trefoil — more at TREFOIL]
(1541) : CLOVER **1**

tri-fol-i-um \tri-'fō-lē-əm/ *n*, *pl* -ria \-ē-ə/ [ML] (1703) : a gallery form-
ing an upper story to the aisle of a church and typically an arcaded story
between the nave arches and clerestory

tri-form \tri-'fōrm/ *adj* [ME *triforme*, fr. L *triformis*, fr. *tri-* + *forma*
form] (15c) : having a triple form or nature

tri-fur-cate \tri-'fər-kət, -kāt; tri-'fər-kāt/ *adj* [L *trifurcus*, fr. *tri-* +
furca fork] (ca. 1831) : having three branches or forks : TRICHOTOM-
OUS — **tri-fur-cate** \tri-'fər-kāt, tri-'fər-/ *vi* — **tri-fur-ca-tion**
\tri-'fər-kā-shən/ *n*

trig \trig/ *adj* [ME, trusty, nimble, of Scand origin; akin to ON *triggr*
faithful; akin to OE *træowe* faithful — more at TRUE] (1513) **1** : styl-
ishly or jauntily trim (<everything was trim and ~ and bright>—Mark
Twain) **2** : extremely precise : PRIM **3** dial chiefly Brit : FIRM, VIG-

OROUS

trig [by shortening] (ca. 1878) : TRIGONOMETRY

tri-gen-i-nal \tri-'je-mə-nəl/ *adj* [NL *trigeminus* trigeminal nerve, fr. L,
threefold, fr. *tri-* + *geminus* twin] (1830) : of or relating to the trigemi-
nal nerve

trigeminal nerve *n* (1830) : either of a pair of large mixed nerves that
are the fifth cranial nerves and supply motor and sensory fibers mostly
to the face — called also *trigeminal*

trigeminal neuralgia *n* (1874) : an intense paroxysmal neuralgia in-
volving one or more branches of the trigeminal nerve

trig-ger \tri-'gər/ *n* [alter. of earlier *tricker*, fr. D *trekker*, fr. MD *trecker*
one that pulls, fr. *trecken* to pull — more at TREK] (1621) **1** a : a piece
(as a lever) connected with a catch or detent as a means of releasing it;
esp : the part of the action moved by the finger to fire a gun **b** : a sim-
ilar movable part by which a mechanism is actuated (<~ of a spray
gun> **2** : something that acts like a mechanical trigger in initiating a
process or reaction — **trigger** *adj* — **trig-gered** \-gərd/ *adj*

trigger *vb* **trig-gered**; **trig-ger-ing** \tri-'g(ə)-rɪŋ/ *vr* (1916) **1** a : to re-
lease or activate by means of a trigger; *esp* : to fire by pulling a me-
chanical trigger (<~ a rifle> **b** : to cause the explosion of (<~ a missile
with a proximity fuse> **2** : to initiate, actuate, or set off by a trigger
<an indiscreet remark that ~ed a fight> (<a stimulus that ~ed a reflex>
~ *vi* : to release a mechanical trigger

trig-ger-fish \tri-'gər-'fɪʃ/ *n* (1849) : any of various deep-bodied bony
fishes (family Balistidae, esp. genus *Balistes*) of warm seas having an
anterior dorsal fin with two or three stout erectile spines

trig-ger-hap-py \-hə-'pɪ/ *adj* (1943) **1** : irresponsible in the use of
firearms; *esp* : inclined to shoot before clearly identifying the target **2**
a : inclined to be irresponsible in matters that might precipitate war **b**
: aggressively belligerent in attitude

trig-ger-man \-mən, -mən/ *n* (ca. 1930) : a gunman who shoots the vic-
tim (as in a gangland murder)

trigger point *n* (ca. 1891) : a localized usu. tender or painful area of the
body and esp. of a muscle that when stimulated gives rise to pain else-
where in the body

tri-glyc-er-ide \tri-'gli-sə-'rɪd/ *n* [ISV] (1860) : any of a group of lipids
that are esters formed from one molecule of glycerol and three mole-
cules of one or more fatty acids, are widespread in adipose tissue, and
commonly circulate in the blood in the form of lipoproteins

tri-glyph \tri-'glɪf/ *n* [L *triglyphus*, fr. *Gk triglyphos*, fr. *tri-* + *glyphein*
to carve — more at CLEAVE] (1563) : a slightly projecting rectangular tab-
let in a Doric frieze with two vertical channels of V section and two
corresponding chamfers or half channels on the vertical sides — **tri-**
glyph-ic \tri-'gli-fik/ or **tri-glyph-ic-al** \-fɪ-kəl/ *adj*

tri-gon \tri-'gən/ *n* [L *trigonum*, fr. *Gk trigōn*, fr. neut. of *trigōnos* tri-
angular, fr. *tri-* + *gōnia* angle — more at GON] (1563) : TRIPLICITY **1**

tri-go-nal \tri-'gō-nəl/ *adj* (1878) : of, relating to, or being the division
of the hexagonal crystal system or the forms belonging to it character-
ized by a vertical axis of threefold symmetry — **tri-go-nal-ly** \-nəl-ē/

adv

tri-go-no-met-ric \tri-'gō-nə-'me-trɪk/ *also* **tri-go-no-met-ri-cal** \-tri-
kəl/ *adj* (1687) : of, relating to, or being in accordance with trigonome-
try — **tri-go-no-met-ri-cal-ly** \-tri-kəl-ē/ *adv*

trigonometric function *n* (1909) **1** : a function (as the sine, cosine,
tangent, cotangent, secant, or cosecant) of an arc or angle most simply
expressed in terms of the ratios of pairs of sides of a right-angled triangle
— called also *circular function* **2** : the inverse (as the arcsine, arcosine,
or arctangent) of a trigonometric function

tri-go-nom-e-try \tri-'gō-nə-'mē-trē/ *n* [NL *trigonometria*, fr. *Gk*
trigōnon + *-metria* -metry] (1614) : the study of the properties of trian-
gles and trigonometric functions and of their applications

tri-gram \tri-'gram/ *n* (1606) **1** : TRIGRAPH **2** : any of the eight pos-
sible combinations of three whole or broken lines used esp. in Chinese
divination

tri-graph \tri-'grɑf/ *n* (ca. 1836) **1** : three letters spelling a single con-
sonant, vowel, or diphthong (<au of beau is a ~> **2** : a cluster of
three successive letters (<the, ion, and ing are high frequency ~s> —

tri-graph-ic \tri-'grɑ-fɪk/ *adj*

tri-halo-meth-ane \tri-'hə-lə-'me-'thān, Brit usu -'mē-/ *n* (1968) : any
of various derivatives CHX₃ of methane (as chloroform) that have
three halogen atoms per molecule and are formed esp. during the chlo-
rination of drinking water

tri-he-dral \tri-'hē-drəl/ *adj* (1789) **1** : having three faces (<~ angle> **2**
: of or relating to a trihedral angle — **trihedral** *n*

tri-hy-brid \tri-'hi-brəd/ *n* (1903) : an individual or strain that is heterozy-
gous for three pairs of genes — **trihybrid** *adj*

tri-hy-droxy \tri-'hi-'drək-sē, -hə-/ *adj* [ISV] (1895) : containing three
hydroxyl groups in the molecule

tri-iodo-thy-ro-nine \tri-'i-ə-də-'thī-rə-nēn/ *n* [tri- + *iod-* + *thyronine*
an amino acid of which thyroxine is a derivative] (1952) : an iodine-
containing hormone C₁₅H₁₂I₂NO₄ that is an amino acid derived from
thyroxine

tri-jet \tri-'jet/ *n* (1967) : an aircraft powered with three jet engines

trike \tri-'k/ *n* [by shortening & alter.] (1883) : TRICYCLE

tri-lat-er-al \tri-'lā-tə-rəl, -lā-trəl/ *adj* [L *trilaterus*, fr. *tri-* + *later-*,
lat- side] (1660) : having three sides or parties (<~ business ventures>
<~ discussions>)

tril-by \tri-'bē/ *n*, *pl* trilbies [fr. the fact that such a hat was worn in the
London stage version of the novel *Trilby* (1894) by George du Maurier]
(1897) *chiefly* Brit : a soft felt hat with indented crown

tri-lin-e-ar \tri-'li-nē-ər/ *adj* (1715) : of, relating to, or involving three
lines (<~ coordinates>)

tri-lin-gual \tri-'lɪŋ-gwəl/ *also* \-lɪŋ-gwəl/ *adj* (1834) : consisting of, hav-
ing, or expressed in three languages (<~ countries> (<a ~ joke>); *also*
: familiar with or able to use three languages (<a ~ teacher> — **tri-lin-**
gual-ly *adv*

tri-lit-er-al \tri-'li-t(ə)-rəl/ *adj* [tri- + *L littera* letter] (1751) : consisting of
three letters and esp. of three consonants (<~ roots in Semitic languag-
es> — **tri-lit-er-al-ism** \-l(ə)-rə-'li-zəm/ *n*

trilateral *n* (ca. 1828) : a root or word that is trilateral

trill \tri-'l/ *vb* [ME; akin to MD *trillen* to vibrate, Sw *trilla* to roll] *vi* (14c)
1 : to flow in a small stream or in drops : TRICKLE **2** : TWIRL, RE-
VOLVE ~ *vt* : to cause to flow in a small stream

trill *n* [It *trillo* prob. of imit. origin] (1649) **1** a : the alternation of two
musical tones a diatonic second apart — called also *shake* **b** : VIBRA-

\ə/ about \ʌ/ kitten, F table \ər/ further \ə/ ash \ə/ ace \ə/ mop, mar
\aʊ/ out \ch/ chin \ē/ bet \ē/ easy \g/ go \h/ hit \h/ ice \j/ job
/j/ sing \d/ go \d/ law \d/ boy \th/ thin \th/ the \i/ lot \i/ foot
/y/ yet \z/ vision, beige \k, ŋ, æ, ɛ, ɪ/ see Guide to Pronunciation