

Webster's II

New College Dictionary



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objects or light sources through the ocular receptors, described in terms of dominant wavelength, luminance, and purity. 2. A substance, as a dye, pigment, or paint, that imparts color. 3. a. General appearance of the skin: COMPLEXION. b. A ruddy complexion. c. A reddening of the face: BLUSH. 4. The skin pigmentation of a person not classed as white. 5. **colors**. A flag or banner, as of a country or military unit. 6. **colors**. A distinguishing symbol, badge, ribbon, or mark <the colors of a college>. 7. **colors**. One's beliefs or position <Stick to your colors>. 8. **often colors**. Character: nature <revealed your true colors>. 9. a. Outward, often deceptive appearance. b. Appearance of truth or authenticity: PLAUSIBILITY. 10. Variety of expression or effect. 11. Vivid and picturesque detail. 12. Traits of behavior or personality that attract interest. 13. Use or effect of color in painting. 14. *Mus.* Tonal quality. 15. *Law*. An apparent or prima-facie right, pretext, or ground. 16. **colors**. The salute made during the ceremony of raising or lowering the flag. 17. A particle or bit of gold found in auriferous gravel or sand. 18. *Physics*. A quantum characteristic of quarks that determines their role in the strong interaction. — *v.* **-ored, -or-ing, -ors**. — *vt.* 1. To impart color to or change the color of. 2. To give a distinctive quality or character to. 3. To misrepresent, esp. by exaggeration or distortion. — *vi.* 1. To take on color or become colored. 2. To change color. 3. To become red in the face. — **col'or-er** *n.*
col-or-a-ble (kŏl'ŏ-r-ə-bəl) *adj.* 1. Intended to deceive: specious. 2. Seemingly genuine or true: PLAUSIBLE. — **col'or-a-bil'i-ty**, **col'or-a-ble-ness** *n. — **col'or-a-bly** *adv.*
col-or-a-do (kŏl'ŏ-r-ə'dŏ) *adj.* [Sp., reddish < *colorar*, to color, to color < Lat. *colorare* < *color*, color.] Of medium strength and color. — Used of cigars.
Col-or-a-do potato beetle (kŏl'ŏ-r-ə'dŏ, -rād'ə) *n.* The potato beetle.
col-or-ant (kŏl'ŏ-r-ənt) *n.* Something, esp. a dye, pigment, paint, or ink, that imparts color or modifies color.
col-or-a-tion (kŏl'ŏ-r-ə'shən) *n.* 1. Arrangement of colors. 2. The sum of the principles or beliefs of a person, group, or institution.
col-or-a-tu-ra (kŏl'ŏ-r-ə-tŏr'ə, -tyŏr'ə) *n.* [Obs. Ital. < LLat., coloring < Lat. *colorare*, to color < *color*, color.] *Mus.* 1. Florid, ornamental vocal trills and runs. 2. Music characterized by coloratura. 3. A soprano specializing in coloratura.
color bar *n.* Color line.
col-or-blind (kŏl'ŏ-r-blīnd) *adj.* 1. Partially or totally unable to distinguish certain colors. 2. a. Not subject to racial prejudices. b. Not recognizing racial distinctions <"Our Constitution is colorblind, and neither knows nor tolerates classes among citizens" — John Marshall Harlan>. — **col'or-blind-ness** *n.*
col-or-breed (kŏl'ŏ-r-brēd') *vt.* **-bred** (-brēd'), **-breed-ing**, **-breeds**. To breed (plants or animals) selectively so as to produce new or desired colors.
col-or-cast (kŏl'ŏ-r-kāst') *v.* **-cast** or **-cast-ed**, **-cast-ing**, **-casts**. [COLOR + (BROAD)CAST.] — *vt.* To broadcast (a television program) in color. — *vi.* To televise in color. — **col'or-cast' n.**
col-or-code (kŏl'ŏ-r-kōd') *vt.* **-cod-ed**, **-cod-ing**, **-codes**. To color, as papers or wires, according to a code for easy identification.
col-ored (kŏl'ŏrd) *adj.* 1. Having color. 2. a. Of a racial group not classed as white. b. Of mixed racial descent. 3. Distorted or biased. — **col'ored** *n.*
col-or-fast (kŏl'ŏ-r-fāst') *adj.* Having color that will not fade or run with wear or washing. — **col'or-fast-ness** *n.*
color filter *n.* A photographic filter for increasing contrast or taking photographs through haze.
col-or-ful (kŏl'ŏ-r-fəl) *adj.* 1. Full of color or colors. 2. Richly varied: VIVID. — **col'or-ful-ly** *adv.* **col'or-ful-ness** *n.*
★ **syns:** COLORFUL, BRIGHT, GAY, SHOWY, VIVID *adj.* **core** meaning: full of color <colorful roses> **ant:** COLORLESS
color guard *n.* The ceremonial escort for a flag.
col-or-if-ic (kŏl'ŏ-rīf'ik) *adj.* Producing or imparting color.
col-or-im-e-ter (kŏl'ŏ-rīm'ē-tər) *n.* 1. An instrument for determining or specifying colors, as by comparison with spectroscopic or visual standards. 2. An instrument that measures the concentration of a known solution constituent by comparison with colors of standard solutions of that constituent. — **col'or-i-met'ric** (-ŏ-r-ə-mēt'rik) *adj.* — **col'or-i-met'ri-cal-ly** *adv.* — **col'or-im'e-try** *n.*
col-or-ing (kŏl'ŏ-r-īng) *n.* 1. The art, manner, or process of applying color. 2. A substance for coloring something. 3. Appearance with regard to color. 4. Characteristic aspect, style, or tone. 5. False or misleading appearance.
col-or-ist (kŏl'ŏ-r-īst) *n.* 1. A painter skilled in achieving special effects with color. 2. A hairdresser specializing in dyeing hair. — **col'or-is'tic** *adj.*
col-or-ize (kŏl'ŏ-rīz') *vt.* **-ized**, **-iz-ing**, **-iz-es**. To impart color to (black-and-white film) by means of a computer-assisted process. — **col'or-i-za'tion** (-ŏ-r-ī-zā'shən) *n.* — **col'or-iz-er** *n.*
col-or-less (kŏl'ŏ-r-lis) *adj.* 1. Devoid of color. 2. Weak or dull in color: PALLID. 3. Lacking animation, variety, or distinction: DULL <a colorless speaker>. — **col'or-less-ly** *adv.* — **col'or-less-ness** *n.*
color line *n.* A barrier, created by custom, law, or economic differences, separating nonwhite persons from whites.
co-los-sal (kŏ-lŏs'əl) *adj.* [Fr. < Lat. *colossus*, colossus.] Enormous in size, extent, or degree: GIGANTIC. — **co-los'sal-ly** *adv.**

col-os-se-um (kŏl'ŏ-sē'əm) *n.* var. of COLISEUM.
co-los-si (kŏ-lŏs'ī) *n.* var. pl. of COLOSSUS.
Co-los-sians (kŏ-lŏsh'ənz, -lŏs'ē-ənz) *pl.n.* (sing. in number). — See table at BIBLE.
col-los-sus (kŏ-lŏs'əs) *n.* pl. **-los-si** (-lŏs'ī) or **-los-sus-es**. [Lat. < Gk. *kolossos*.] 1. A huge statue. 2. Something resembling a colossus, as in importance or size.
col-los-to-my (kŏ-lŏs'tŏ-mē) *n.* pl. **-mies**. Surgical construction of an artificial excretory opening from the colon.
col-los-trum (kŏ-lŏs'trəm) *n.* [Lat.] The first milk secreted by the mammary glands just after childbirth, lasting for a few days.
col-our (kŏl'ŏr) *n.* & *v.* Chiefly Brit. var. of COLOR.
-colous *suff.* [Lat. *-cola*, inhabitant.] Having a given kind of habit <arenicolous>.
col-pi-tis (kŏl-pī'tis) *n.* [Gk. *kolpos*, vagina + *-itis*.] Inflammation of the vaginal mucous membrane.
col-por-teur (kŏl'pŏr'tər, -pŏr') *n.* [Fr., alteration of OFr. *compor-teur* < *comporter*, to peddle, conduct. — see COMPORT.] A peddler of devotional literature. — **col'por'tage** (-pŏr'tij, -pŏr') *n.*
col-po-scope (kŏl'pŏ-skŏp') *n.* [Gk. *kolpos*, vagina, womb + *-scope*.] A speculum used in diagnostic examination of the cervical and vaginal tissues.
col-pos-co-py (kŏl-pŏs'kŏ-pē) *n.* pl. **-pies**. [Gk. *kolpos*, vagina, womb + *-scopy*.] Examination of the cervical and vaginal tissues by means of a colposcope.
colt (kŏlt) *n.* [ME < OE.] 1. A young male horse. 2. A youthful, inexperienced person. 3. A rope whip once used for disciplining sailors aboard ship.
col-ter also **coul-ter** (kŏl'tər) *n.* [ME < OE *cultēr* ult. < Lat.] A blade or wheel on a plow for making vertical cuts in the sod.
colt-ish (kŏl'tish) *adj.* 1. Of, relating to, or like a colt. 2. Lively and playful: FRISKY. — **colt-ish-ly** *adv.* — **colt-ish-ness** *n.*
colts-foot (kŏlts'fŏot') *n.* pl. **-foots**. [From the shape of its leaves.] An Old World plant, *Tussilago farfara*, bearing yellow flowers that appear before the heart-shaped leaves.
col-u-brid (kŏl'ŏ-brīd, kŏl'yŏ-) *n.* [NLat. *Colubridae*, family name < Lat. *coluber*, snake.] Any of numerous chiefly nonvenomous snakes of the family Colubridae, including the king snakes and garter snakes. — *adj.* Of or belonging to the Colubridae.
col-u-brine (kŏl'ŏ-brīn', kŏl'yŏ-) *adj.* Colubrid.
col-u-go (kŏ-lŏŏ'gŏ) *n.* pl. **-gos**. [Malay.] The flying lemur.
Co-lum-ba (kŏ-lŏm'bə) *n.* [NLat. < Lat. *columba*, dove.] A constellation in the Southern Hemisphere.
col-um-bar-i-um (kŏl'ŏm-bār'ē-əm) also **col-um-bar-y** (kŏl'ŏm-bēr'ē) *n.* pl. **-ia** (-ē-ə) also **-ies**. [Lat., sepulchre for urns, dovecote < *columba*, dove.] 1. a. A vault with niches for urns containing ashes of the dead. b. A niche in such a vault. 2. a. A dovecote. b. A pigeonhole in a dovecote.
Co-lum-bi-a (kŏ-lŏm'bē-ə) *n.* [After Christopher Columbus (1451–1506).] Feminine personification of the United States.
Col-um-bi-an (kŏ-lŏm'bē-ən) *adj.* 1. Of or relating to the United States. 2. Of or relating to Christopher Columbus.
col-um-bine (kŏl'ŏm-bin') *n.* [ME < Med. Lat. *columbina* < Lat. *columbinus*, dovelike (from the resemblance of the inverted flower to a cluster of doves) < *columba*, dove.] A plant of the genus *Aquilegia*, having variously colored flowers with five conspicuously spurred petals. — *adj.* Dovelike.
col-um-bite (kŏ-lŏm'bīt') *n.* [COLUMB(IUM) + *-ite*.] A black mineral, essentially (Fe, Mn)(Nb, Ta)₂O₆, used as a source of niobium and tantalum.
Co-lum-bi-um (kŏ-lŏm'bē-əm) *n.* [NLat. *Columbia*, the United States.] Symbol **Cb** Niobium.
Columbus Day *n.* Oct. 12, a holiday officially celebrated in the United States on the second Monday in Oct. to honor Christopher Columbus.
col-u-mel-la (kŏl'yŏ-mēl'ə, kŏl'ŏ-) *n.* pl. **-mel-lae** (-mēl'ē) [Lat., dim. of *columna*, column.] One of several small columnlike structures in some animals and plants. — **col'u-mel'lar** (-mēl'ər), **col'umel'late** (-mēl'āt') *adj.*
col-umn (kŏl'əm) *n.* [ME *colunne* < Lat. *columna*.] 1. A supporting pillar consisting of a base, a cylindrical shaft, and a capital. 2. Something like a column in function or form. 3. a. One of two or more vertical sections of typed or printed lines lying side by side on a page, separated by a blank space or rule. b. A feature article that appears regularly, as in a publication. 4. A formation, as of troops or vehicles, in which all elements follow one behind the other. 5. *Bot.* An organ formed by the fusion of stamens or of stamens and pistils, as in the orchid. — **col'umn-ed** (kŏl'əmnd) *adj.*
col-um-nar (kŏ-lŏm'nār) *adj.* 1. Shaped like a column. 2. Constructed with or having columns.
col-um-ni-a-tion (kŏ-lŏm'nē-ā'shən) *n.* Arrangement or use of columns in a building.
col-um-nist (kŏl'əm-nīst, -ə-mīst) *n.* A writer of a newspaper or magazine column.

ā pat ā pay ār care ā father ē pet ē be hw which ī ph
i tie īr pier ō pot ō toe ō paw, for oi noise ōō took

Vv

ut, out + -most, -most)
nt : most extreme. 2. Of
ensity <the utmost ac-
gree, or extent <the ut-

TE + AZTEC.] 1. A lan-
that includes Ute, Hopi,
people speaking a Uto-
; Uto-Aztecs or to the

it + Gk. *topos*, place.] 1.
on described in Sir Tho-
lly perfect place, esp. in
dealistic concept for so-

Of, relating to, or hav-
or involving the ideal of
practical theories of so-
former.

e ideals or principles of
eory.

(yōō-trik'yo-las) *n.*, *pl.*
utriculus, dim. of *uter-*
us, sac connecting with
unctioning in the main-
n. 2. Bot. A small blad-
ō-trik'yo-lar) *adj.*

RICLE.

. [ME *utteren* < MDu.
To express by means of
money or a forgery into
leit) to another. 4. *Obs.*
ter, *er* *n.*
< ut, out.] Completely

TE, CONSUMMATE, FLAT-
ER, THOROUGH, TOTAL-
ing : completely such,
fool> <utter chaos>
d expressing vocally. b.
or expressed, esp. a ver-

ance < *outraz*, to go be-
nd.] The uttermost end
nce>

ately <utterly mad>
outer + -most, -most]

e, completely reversing

zrovit, after Count Sar-
i garnet, $\text{Ca}_3\text{Cr}_2(\text{SiO}_3)_7$

grape.] The pigmented
liary body, and choroid.

Pathol. Inflammation of

scale ranging from zero
um that an unprotected
the ultraviolet radiation
is such as cloud cover,

uva, grape.] The small,
the center of the soft

ssociated with the uvu-
r with the back of the

rrs.] Pathol. Inflamma-

t) *adj.* [*Lat.* *uxorius*
stic of a wife.

ūg-zōr') *n.* [Med. Lat.
t, killing < *caedere*, to
man who kills his wife.
zōr') *adj.* [*Lat.* *uxorius*
ed to one's wife. — *ux-*

group of Turkic people
2. The Turkic language

be hw which (pit
oi noise oō took

v or **V** (vē) *n.*, *pl.* **v's** or **V's**. 1. The 22nd letter of the English alphabet. 2. A speech sound represented by the letter *v*. 3. The 22nd in a series. 4. Something shaped like the letter *V*. 5. **V** The Roman numeral for five.

V symbol for VANADIUM.

V-1 (vē'wūn') *n.* [*G.* *Vergeltungswaffe eins*, retaliation weapon (number) one.] ROBOT BOMB 1.

V-2 (vē'tōō') *n.* [*G.* *Vergeltungswaffe zwei*, retaliation weapon (number) two.] A long-range liquid-fuel rocket used by the Germans as a World War II ballistic missile.

vac·an·cy (vā'kan-sē) *n.*, *pl.* **-cies**. 1. The state of being vacant or unoccupied. 2. Empty space. 3. An unfilled or unoccupied position, office, or accommodation. 4. Inanity. 5. *Archaic*. A period of idle leisure.

vac·ant (vā'kant) *adj.* [*ME* < *OFr.* < *Lat.* *vacans*, *pr.* part. of *vacare*, to be empty.] 1. Containing nothing : EMPTY. 2. Being without an incumbent or occupant <a vacant position in the department> 3. Not put to use or occupied <a weedy vacant lot> 4. *Law*. Not claimed, as by an heir <a vacant estate> 5. a. Lacking knowledge or intelligence. b. Expressionless : blank <looked at me with a vacant stare> 6. Not filled with activity <vacant early morning hours> — **vac·ant·ly** *adv.* — **vac·ant·ness** *n.*

vac·ate (vā'kāt', vā-kāt') *v.* **-cat·ed**, **-cat·ing**, **-cates**. [*Lat.* *vacare*, *vacat*, to be empty.] — *vt.* 1. a. To cease to occupy or hold : GIVE UP. b. To empty of occupants or incumbents. 2. *Law*. To make void : ANNUL. — *vi.* To leave a job, office, or lodging.

vac·a·tion (vā-kā'shan, vā-) *n.* [*ME* *vacacioun* < *OFr.* *vacation* < *Lat.* *vacatio*, freedom from occupation < *vacare*, to be at leisure.] 1. A period of time for pleasure, rest, or relaxation, esp. one with pay granted to an employee. 2. a. A holiday. b. A fixed holiday period, esp. one during which a school, court, or business suspends activities. 3. *Archaic*. An act or instance of vacating. — *vi.* **-tioned**, **-tion·ing**, **-tions**. To take or spend a vacation. — **vac·a·tion·er**, **vac·a·tion·ist** *n.*

vac·a·tion·land (vā-kā'shan-lānd') *n.* A place having special attractions for vacationers.

vac·ci·nal (vāk'sə-nal, vāk-sē') *adj.* Of or pertaining to vaccine or vaccination.

vac·ci·nate (vāk'sə-nāt') *v.* **-nat·ed**, **-nat·ing**, **-nates**. [*<* *VACCINE*.] — *vt.* To inoculate with a vaccine so as to produce immunity to a disease. — *vi.* To give a vaccination. — **vac·ci·na·tor** *n.*

vac·ci·na·tion (vāk'sə-nā'shən) *n.* 1. Inoculation with a vaccine so as to protect against a given disease. 2. A scar on the skin caused by vaccinating.

vac·cine (vāk-sen', vāk-sen') *n.* [*<* *Lat.* *vaccinus*, of cows < *vacca*, cow.] 1. A suspension of attenuated or killed microorganisms, as of viruses or bacteria, incapable of inducing severe infection but capable when inoculated of counteracting the unmodified species. 2. A vaccine prepared from the cowpox virus and inoculated against smallpox.

A word history: The first vaccine was prepared from the virus that causes cowpox, as the derivation of the word *vaccine* from Latin *vacca*, "cow," might suggest. Cowpox is a mild disease of cows that can be caught by human beings. In the late 18th century, Dr. Edward Jenner discovered that someone who has had cowpox is almost always immune to smallpox, a related, but much more serious, disease. Jenner invented a method of inoculating human beings with the cowpox virus; he called the inoculating agent "vaccine." Since that time many other diseases have been prevented by inoculation, and the word *vaccine* has been applied to the inoculating agent in all such cases.

vac·cin·i·a (vāk-sin'ē-ə) *n.* [*NLat.* < *Lat.* *vaccinus*, of cows.] Cowpox. — **vac·cin·i·al** *adj.*

vac·il·lant (vās'ə-lənt) *adj.* Vacillating.

vac·il·late (vās'ə-lāt') *vi.* **-lat·ed**, **-lat·ing**, **-lates**. [*Lat.* *vacillare*, *vacillat*, to waver.] 1. To sway from side to side : OSCILLATE. 2. To swing indecisively between courses of action or opinions. — **vac·il·lat·ing·ly** *adv.* — **vac·il·la·tion** *n.* — **vac·il·la·tor** *n.*

vac·il·la·to·ry (vās'ə-lā-tōr'ē, -tōr'ē) *adj.* Tending to waver : IRRESOLUTE <a vacillatory foreign policy>

vac·u·a (vāk'yōō-ə) *n.* *var.* *pl.* of *VACUUM*.

vac·u·i·ty (vā-kyōō'itē; vā-) *n.*, *pl.* **-ties**. [*Ofr.* *vacuite* < *Lat.* *vacuitas* < *vacuus*, empty. — see *VACUUM*.] 1. Complete absence of matter : EMPTINESS. 2. An empty space : *VACUUM*. 3. Total lack of ideas. 4. Absence of meaningful occupation : IDLENESS. 5. The quality or fact of being devoid of something specified <a vacuity of good taste> 6. Something, esp. a remark, that is inane or pointless.

vac·u·o·lat·ed (vāk'yōō-ō-lā'tid) *also* **vac·u·o·late** (-lāt', -līt) *adj.* Containing a vacuole or vacuoles.

vac·u·ole (vāk'yōō-ōl') *n.* [*Fr.* < *Lat.* *vacuum*, *vacuum*. — see *VACUUM*.] A small cavity in cell protoplasm. — **vac·u·o·lar** (-ō-lār, -lār') *adj.* — **vac·u·o·la·tion** *n.*

vac·u·ous (vāk'yōō-əs) *adj.* [*Lat.* *vacuus*, empty. — see *VACUUM*.] 1. Devoid of matter : EMPTY. 2. a. Lacking intelligence : STUPID. b. Devoid of meaning or substance : INANE <a *vacuous* remark> 3. Lacking meaningful purpose or occupation : IDLE. — **vac·u·ous·ly** *adv.* — **vac·u·ous·ness** *n.*

vac·u·um (vāk'yōō-əm, -yōōm, -yām) *n.*, *pl.* **-u·ums** or **-u·a** (-yōō-ə) [*Lat.*, neuter of *vacuus*, empty < *vacare*, to be empty.] 1. a. Absence of matter. b. A space empty of matter. c. A space relatively empty of matter. 2. A state of emptiness : VOID. 3. A state of being sealed off from external or environmental influences : ISOLATION. 4. *pl.* **vacuums**. A vacuum cleaner. — *vt.* **ē** *vi.* **-umed**, **-um·ing**, **-ums**. To clean with or use a vacuum cleaner.

vacuum bottle *n.* A bottle or flask having a vacuum between its inner and outer walls, designed to maintain the desired temperature of the contents.

vacuum casting *n.* The casting of metals under a vacuum.

vacuum cleaner *n.* An electrical appliance that cleans surfaces by suction.

vacuum drying *n.* Removal of liquid material from a solution or mixture under reduced air pressure, resulting in drying at a lower temperature than required at full pressure.

vacuum gauge *n.* A device for ascertaining the pressure in a partial vacuum.

vac·u·um·packed (vāk'yōō-əm-pākt', vāk'yōōm-, vāk'yām-) *adj.* Packed in a container with little or no air.

vacuum pump *n.* 1. A pump used to evacuate an enclosure. 2. *PULSOMETER* 1.

vacuum tube *n.* An electron tube having an internal vacuum sufficiently high to permit electrons to move with low interaction with any remaining gas molecules.

va·de·me·cum (vā'dē mē'kəm, vā'dē mā'-) *n.*, *pl.* **vade me·cums**. [*Lat.*, go with me.] 1. Something useful that one constantly carries about. 2. A book, as a guidebook, for ready reference.

va·dose (vā'dos') *adj.* [*Lat.* *vadosus*, shallow < *vadum*, a shallow, ford.] Pertaining to or being water located in the zone of aeration in the earth's crust above the ground water level.

vag·a·bond (vāg'ə-bōnd') *n.* [*ME* *vagabonde* < *Ofr.* *vagabond* < *Lat.* *vagabundus*, wandering < *vagari*, to wander < *vagus*, wandering.]

1. A homeless person who moves from place to place. 2. TRAMP 3. — *adj.* 1. Of, relating to, or characteristic of a wanderer : NOMADIC. 2. Aimless : drifting. 3. Irregular in course or behavior : UNPREDICTABLE. — *vi.* **-bond·ed**, **-bond·ing**, **-bonds**. To lead the life of a vagabond. — **vag·a·bond·age** *n.* — **vag·a·bond·ism** *n.*

va·gal (vā'gol) *adj.* Of, relating to, or mediated by the vagus nerve. — **va·gal·ly** *adv.*

va·ga·ry (vā'gā-rē, vā'gār'ē) *n.*, *pl.* **-ries**. [*<* *Lat.* *vagari*, to wander < *Lat.* *vagus*, wandering.] A flight of fancy.

va·gi (vā'gi', -ji') *n.* *pl.* of *VAGUS*.

va·gil·i·ty (vā-jil'i-tē, vā-) *n.* [*<* *obs.* *vagile*, free to move about < *Lat.* *vagus*, wandering.] An organism's capacity or tendency to become widely dispersed.

va·gi·na (vā-jī'nā) *n.*, *pl.* **-nas** or **-nae** (-nē) [*Lat.*, sheath.] 1. *Anat.* a. The passage leading from the external genital orifice to the uterus in female mammals. b. A similar structure in some invertebrates. 2. *Biol.* A sheathlike structure or part, as that formed by the base of a leaf enclosing a stem.

vag·i·nal (vāj'ə-nal) *adj.* 1. Of or pertaining to the vagina. 2. Relating to or resembling a sheath. — **vag·i·nal·ly** *adv.*

vag·i·nate (vāj'ə-nīt, -nāt') *also* **vag·i·nat·ed** (-nā'tid) *adj.* Forming or enclosed in a sheath.

vag·i·nec·to·my (vāj'ə-nēk'tō-mē) *n.*, *pl.* **-mies**. [*VAGIN(A)* + *-ECTOMY*.] 1. Surgical excision of all or part of the vagina. 2. Surgical excision of the serous membrane covering the testis and epididymis.

vag·i·nis·mus (vāj'ə-niz'məs) *n.* [*NLat.* : *VAGIN(A)* + *-ISMUS*, -ism.] Painful contraction spasm of the vagina.

vag·i·ni·tis (vāj'ə-nī'tis) *n.* [*VAGIN(A)* + *-ITIS*.] Inflammation of the vagina.

va·got·o·my (vā-gōt'ə-mē) *n.*, *pl.* **-mies**. [*VAG(US)* + *-TOMY*.] Surgical division of the lower thoracic or upper abdominal fibers of the vagus nerve, used to diminish acid secretion of the stomach and control a duodenal ulcer.

va·go·to·ni·a (vā-gā-tō'nē-ə) *n.* [*VAG(US)* + *-TONIA*.] Pathological overactivity of the vagus nerve. — **va·go·ton·ic** (-tōn'ik) *adj.*

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