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luffa

lumpenproletariat



luna moth
Actias luna

2. To raise or lower (the boom of a crane or derrick). [ME *lof*, spar holding out the windward tack of a square sail < OFr., prob. of Gmc. orig.]

luf-fa (lōō'fā, lūf'ə) *n.* Var. of *loofa*.

Luf-kin (lūf'kīn). A city of E TX NNE of Houston. Pop. 30,206.

Luft-waf-fe (lōōf't vāt'ə) *n.* The German air force before and during World War II. [Ger.: *Luft*, air < MHGer. < OHGer.] + *Waffe*, weapon < MHGer. *wāfen* < OHGer. *waffan*.]

lug (lūg) *n.* 1. A handle or projection used as a hold or support. 2. A lug nut. 3. *Naut.* A lugsail. 4. A projection that helps to provide traction, as on a tire or the sole of a boot. 5. A copper or brass fitting to which electrical wires can be soldered or otherwise connected. 6. *Slang.* A clumsy fool; a blockhead. [ME *lugga*, earflap, prob. of Scand. orig.]

lug (lūg) *v.* **lugged, lug-ging, lugs.** — *tr.* 1. To drag or haul (an object) laboriously. 2. To pull or drag with short jerks. — *intr.* 1. To pull something with difficulty; tug. 2. To move along by jerks or as if under a heavy burden. 3. To run poorly or hesitate because of strain. Used of an engine. — *n.* 1. *Archaeol.* The act of lugging. 2. Something lugged. 3. A box for shipping fruit or vegetables. [ME *luggen*, of Scand. orig.]

luge (lōōzh) *n.* **Sports.** 1. A racing sled for one or two riders lying supine. 2. A competition involving these sleds. [Fr. dial. < Med.Lat. *sludia*, perh. of Celt. orig.] — **luge** *v.* — **lug'er** *n.*

lug-gage (lūg'ij) *n.* 1. Containers for a traveler's belongings. 2. The cases and belongings of a traveler. [Prob. *lug* + (*bag*) *gag*.]

lug-ger (lūg'ər) *n.* *Naut.* A small boat used for fishing, sailing, or coasting and having two or three masts, each with a lugsail, and two or three jibs set on the bowsprit. [*<* LUGSAIL.]

lug nut *n.* A heavy nut that fits over a bolt, used esp. to attach an automotive vehicle's wheel to its axle.

Lu-go-si (lōō-gō'sē, lō-), *Bela*. 1884–1956. Hungarian-born Amer. actor known for horror films such as *Dracula* (1931).

lug-sail (lūg'səl) *n.* *Naut.* A quadrilateral sail that lacks a boom, has the foot larger than the head, and is bent to a yard hanging obliquely on the mast. [Poss. < *lug* 1.]

lu-gu-bri-ous (lōō-gōō'brē-əs, -gyōō't-) *adj.* Mournful, dismal, or gloomy, esp. to an exaggerated or ludicrous degree. [*<* Lat. *lūgubris* < *lūgēre*, to mourn.] — **lu-gu-bri-ous-ly** *adv.* — **lu-gu-bri-ous-ness** *n.*

lug-worm (lūg'wūrm) *n.* Any of various segmented, burrowing marine worms of the genus *Arenicola*, esp. *A. marina* often used as fishing bait. [?]

Lul-chow Peninsula (lūw'chō). See *Leizhou Peninsula*.

Lul-se-ño (lūw'sān'yō) *n., pl.* *Luliseño* or *-ños*. 1. A member of a Native American people inhabiting the coastal area of California south of Los Angeles. 2. The Uto-Aztecan language of the Luliseño. [Am.Sp., from *San Luis Rey de Francia*, a mission in S CA.]

Luke (lōōk) *n.* See *table at Bible*.

Luke, Saint. 1st cent. A.D. Companion of St. Paul and author of the third Gospel of the New Testament.

luke-warm (lōōk'wōrm) *adj.* 1. Mildly warm; tepid. 2. Lacking conviction or enthusiasm; indifferent. [ME *leuk-warm*: *leuk*, *luke* (poss. var. of *leu* < OE *hlēow*; see *kela* 1*) + *warm*, warm; see *WARM*.] — **luke-warm-ly** *adv.* — **luke-warm-ness** *n.*

Luks (lūks), *George*. 1867–1933. Amer. painter known for his studies of urban life, including *The Players* (1905).

Lu-le-ä (lōō'le-ä, lū'-). A city of NE Sweden on the Gulf of Bothnia; chartered 1621. Pop. 66,811.

Lu-le-älv (lōō'le-älv, lū'la-älv). A river of N Sweden flowing c. 443 km (275 mi) to the Gulf of Bothnia.

lull (lūl) *v.* **lulled, lul-ing, lulls.** — *tr.* 1. To cause to sleep or rest; soothe or calm. 2. To deceive into trustfulness. — *intr.* To become calm. — *n.* 1. A relatively calm interval, as in a storm. 2. An interval of lessened activity. [ME *lullen*, poss. of LGer. orig.]

lull-a-by (lūl'ə-bī) *n., pl.* *-bies*. *Mus.* A soothing song with which to lull a child to sleep. — *tr.v.* **bled, -bying, -bies.** To quiet with or as if with a lullaby. [Obsolete *lulla*, word used in lullabies (< ME *hulla* < *lullen*, to lull; see *LULL*) + *by*, *bye* (as in *GOOD-NIGHT*).]

Lul-ly (lōō'le, lū-), *Jean Baptiste*. 1632–87. Italian-born French composer who founded the national French opera.

lu-lu (lōō'lōō) *n.* *Slang.* A remarkable person, object, or idea. [Alteration of obsolete *looly*.]

lum-bar-go (lūm-bā'gō) *n.* A painful condition of the lower back, as one resulting from muscle strain or a slipped disk. [LLat. *lumbāgō* < Lat. *lumbus*, loin.]

lum-bar (lūm'bar, -bār') *adj.* Of, near, or situated in the part of the back and sides between the lowest ribs and the pelvis. — *n.* A lumbar artery, nerve, vertebra, or part. [NLat. *lumbāris* < Lat. *lumbus*, loin.]

lum-ber (lūm'ber) *n.* 1. Timber sawed into boards, planks, or other structural members of standard or specified length. 2. Something useless or cumbersome. 3. *Chiefly British.* Miscellaneous stored articles. — *v.* **bered, -ber-ing, -bers.** — *tr.* 1. To cut down (trees) and prepare as marketable timber. 2. To cut down the timber of. 3. *Chiefly British.* To clutter

with or as if with unused articles. — *intr.* To cut and timber for marketing. [Perh. < LUMBER 2.] — **lum-ber** *v.* — **lum-ber-er** *n.*

lum-ber (lūm'ber) *intr.v.* **bered, -ber-ing, -bers.** 1. To move with heavy clumsiness. See *Syns at blunder*. 2. To move with a rumbling noise. [ME *lumeren*, poss. of orig.] — **lum-ber-ing-ly** *adv.*

lum-ber-jack (lūm'ber-jāk') *n.* 1. One who fells trees or transports the timber to a mill; a logger. 2. A short outer jacket.

Lum-ber-ton (lūm'ber-tən). A city of S NC S of Fayette Pop. 18,601.

lum-ber-yard (lūm'ber-yārd') *n.* An establishment that handles lumber and other building materials from a yard.

lu-men (lōō'mən) *n., pl.* *-mens* or *-mī-na* (-mā-nā). 1. The inner open space or cavity of a tubular organ. 2. *Phys.* The unit of luminous flux in the International System, equal to the amount of light given through a solid angle by a source of one candela emitting equally in all directions. See *table at measure*.

lu-men (lōō'mən) *n.* 1. The condition or state of being luminous. 2. *Phys.* The intensity of light per unit of its source.

lu-mi-nar-i-a (lōō'mā-nār'ē-ə) *n.* 1. *Southwestern U.S.* A candle in a small decorative paper bag weighted with sand and lined up with others as a holiday decoration called regionally *farolito*. 2. *New Mexico.* A bonfire of each house in a pueblo on Christmas Eve. [Sp. *luminaria*, pl. of *luminare*, lamp. See *LUMINARY*.]

lu-mi-nar-y (lōō'mā-nār'ē) *n., pl.* *-ies*. 1. An object, such as a celestial body, that gives light. 2. A person who is a source of inspiration to others. 3. A person who has achieved eminence in a field. [ME < OFr. *luminarie* < Lat. *lumināre*, to illuminate, *lūmen*, light. See *leuk* 1*.] — **lu-mi-nar-y** *adj.*

lu-mi-nes-cent (lōō'mā-nēs't) *adj.* 1. The condition or state of being luminous. 2. *Phys.* The intensity of light per unit of its source.

lu-mi-nes-cence (lōō'mā-nēs't) *n.* 1. The emission of light that does not derive energy from the temperature of the emitting body, as in fluorescence, and is caused, for example, by radiation-induced excitation of atoms. 2. The light so emitted. [Lat. *lūmen*, *lūmin*, light. See *leuk* 1*.] — **lu-mi-nes-cent-ly** *adv.* — **lu-mi-nes-cence** *n.* The total radiant energy of light emitted by a source.

lu-mi-nif-er-ous (lōō'mā-nīf'ər-əs) *adj.* Generating, or transmitting light.

lu-mi-nos-i-ty (lōō'mā-nōs'itē) *n., pl.* *-ties*. 1. The ratio or quality of being luminous. 2. Something luminous. 3. The ratio of luminous flux at a specific wavelength to radiant flux at the same wavelength.

lu-mi-nous (lōō'mā-nās) *adj.* 1. Emitting light, esp. by self-generated light. 2. Full of light; illuminated. See *Syns at bright*. 3. Easily comprehended; clear: *luminous idea*. b. Enlightened and intelligent; inspiring: *luminous idea*. c. *Chiefly British.* Luminous: *luminous idea*. [ME *luminous* < Lat. *lūminōsus* < *lūmen*, *lūmin*, light. See *leuk* 1*.] — **lu-mi-nous-ly** *adv.* — **lu-mi-nous-ness** *n.*

luminous energy *n.* The total radiant energy of light emitted by a source.

luminous flux *n.* The rate of flow of light per unit of time; the flux of visible light expressed in lumens.

luminous intensity *n.* The luminous flux per solid angle measured in a given direction relative to the emitting source.

lum-mox (lūm'aks) *n.* *Informal.* A person regarded as stupid or stupid. [?]

lump (lūmp) *n.* 1. An irregularly shaped mass or piece of small cube of sugar. 3. *Pathol.* A swelling or small protuberance. 4. A collection or totality; an aggregate. 5. A regarded as ungainly or dull witted. 6. *Informal.* A severe punishment or treatment, as an unsparring criticism. One's just deserts; comeuppance. — *adj.* 1. Formed of lumps: *lump sugar*. 2. Not broken or divided into pieces: *lump payment*. — *v.* **lumped, lump-ing, lumps.** — *tr.* To put together in a single group without discrimination or with heavy clumsiness. 3. To make into lumps. 4. To become lumpy. 5. To move heavily. — *idiom.* **lump** (one's) throat. A feeling of constriction in the throat by emotion. [ME *lump*, of LGer. orig.]

lump (lūmp) *tr.v.* **lumped, lump-ing, lumps.** *Informal.* To lump (what must be endured); like it or lump it. [Perh. *lump*, to look sullen.]

lump-ec-to-my (lūm-pēk'tō-mē) *n., pl.* *-mies*. Surgical removal of a tumor from the breast with the removal of a large amount of surrounding tissue.

lum-pen (lūm'pen, lōōm'f-) *adj.* 1. Of or relating to the lumpenproletariat, a class of people who have been cut off from the socioeconomic class with which they would ordinarily be identified. 2. Of or relating to the lumpenproletariat, the lower or unenlightened. [*<* Ger. *Lumpenproletariat*, the section of the proletariat. See *LUMPENPROLETARIAT*.]

lum-pen-pro-le-tar-i-at (lūm'pen-prō'li-tār'ē-ət) *n.* 1. The lowest, most degraded stratum of the proletariat.

mechanical advantage

median strip



medal

or other printing plate. — **me·chan'ic-al-ly** *adv.* — **me·chan'ic-al-ness** *n.*

mechanical advantage *n.* The ratio of the output force produced by a machine to the applied input force.

mechanical drawing *n.* 1. Drafting. 2. A drawing, such as an architect's plans, that enables measurements to be interpreted. **mechanical engineering** *n.* The branch of engineering that encompasses the generation and application of heat and mechanical power and the design, production, and use of machines and tools. — **mechanical engineer** *n.*

mechanics (mē-kān'iks) *n.* 1. (used with a sing. v.) The branch of physics that is concerned with the analysis of the action of forces on matter or material systems. 2. (used with a sing. or pl. v.) Design, construction, and use of machinery, tools, or mechanical devices. 3. (used with a pl. v.) The functional and technical aspects of an activity.

mechanism (mēk'ə-niz'm) *n.* 1. a. A machine or mechanical appliance. b. The arrangement of connected parts in a machine. 2. A system of parts that operate or interact like those of a machine: the mechanism of the solar system. 3. An instrument or a process, physical or mental, by which something is done or comes into being. 4. A habitual manner of doing or coming into being. 5. Biol. The involuntary and conscious response of an organism to a stimulus. 6. Psychol. A persistent, unconscious mental and emotional pattern that dominates behavior in a given situation or environment. 7. The sequence of steps in a chemical reaction. 8. Philos. The doctrine that all natural phenomena are explicable by material causes and mechanical principles. [NLat. *mechanisma* < LLat. *mechanisma* < Gk. *mēkhanē*, machine. See **MECHANIC**.]

mechanist (mēk'ə-nist) *n.* Philos. One who believes in the doctrine of mechanism.

mechanistic (mēk'ə-nis'tik) *adj.* 1. Mechanically determined. 2. Philos. Of or relating to mechanism. 3. Automatic and impersonal. — **mechanistic-al-ly** *adv.*

mechanize (mēk'ə-niz') *tr.v.* -nized, -niz-ing, -nizes. 1. To equip with machinery. 2. To equip (a military unit) with motor vehicles, such as tanks and trucks. 3. To make automatic; render routine or monotonous. 4. To produce by or as if by machines. — **mechanization** (-niz'ə-shən) *n.* — **mechanizer** *n.*

mechano- or **mechan-** *pref.* 1. Machine; machinery: *mechanite*. 2. Mechanical: *mechanotherapy*. [Gk. *mēkhanō* < *mēkhanē*, machine. See **MACHINE**.]

mechanochemical (mēk'ə-nō-kēm'i-kal) *adj.* Of or relating to conversion of chemical energy into mechanical work.

mechanoceptor (mēk'ə-nō-rē-sēp'tor) *n.* Physiol. A specialized sensory organ that responds to mechanical stimuli such as tension, pressure, or displacement. — **mechanoceptive** *adj.*

mechanotherapy (mēk'ə-nō-thēr'i-a-pē) *n.*, *pl.* -pies. Medical treatment by mechanical methods, such as massage. — **mechanotherapist** *n.*

Meche-lin (mēk'lin) *n.* Also **Meche-len** (mēk'ə-lən, mēk'lin) or **Ma-lines** (ma-lēnz', mā-lēn'). A city of N-central Belgium NNE of Brussels. Pop. 77,010.

Meche-lin (mēk'lin) *n.* A lace in which the pattern details are defined by a flat thread. [After MECHEN.]

Meche-lin-burg (mēk'lin-būrg', -bōrk') *n.* A historical region of NE Germany on the Baltic Sea; orig. occupied c. 6th cent. A.D. by Slavic peoples.

mech-zine (mēk'li-zēn') *n.* A whitish crystalline powder, $C_{25}H_{27}ClN_2$, used to treat nausea and motion sickness. [MECHYLLENZINE + C(H)(ORO-) + (PIPERAZINE).]

meconium (mē-kō-nē-əm) *n.* A dark green fecal material that accumulates in fetal intestines and is excreted at or near birth. [Lat. *mēconium* < Gk. *mēkōnion* < *mēkōn*, poppy.]

meconopter (mē-kōp'ter-ən) *n.* Any of various carnivorous insects of the order Mecoptera, including the scorpion flies, characterized by membranous wings and a beaklike head having chewing mouthparts at the tip. [NLat. *Mecoptera*, order name: Gk. *mēkos*, length; see *māk-* + Gk. *ptera*, pl. of *pteron*, wing; see *pet-*.] — **meconopterous** *adj.*

med (mēd) *adj.* Informal. Medical: *med students*. **med.** *abbr.* 1. Medicine. 2. Medieval. 3. Medium. **M.E.** *abbr.* Master of Education.

medallion (mā-dāl-yōn', mā-dāl'yōn) *n.*, *pl.* -lions (-yōn', -yōnz). A circular portion of food; a medallion. [Fr. See **MEDALLION**.]

medaka (mā-dā'ka) *n.* A small Japanese fish (*Oryzias latipes*) often used in biological research or in stocking aquariums. [J., killifish: *me*, eye + *daka*, high.]

medal (mēd'l) *n.* 1. A flat piece of metal stamped with a commemorative design or inscription, often given as an award. 2. A piece of metal stamped with a religious device, used as an object of veneration or commemoration. [Fr. *medaille* < OFr. < Ital. *medaglia* < VLat. **medālia*, coins worth half a denarius < LLat. *medālia*, little halves < neut. pl. of *medialis*, of the middle, medial. See **MEDIAL**.] — **medal-ist** (mēd'al-ist) *n.* — **medal-ly** (mā-dāl'ly) *adv.*

Medal for Merit (mēd'al) *n.* A decoration awarded by the United States to civilians for outstanding service.

medalist (mēd'al-ist) *n.* 1. One who has received a medal. 2. Sports. The winner at medal play in a golf tournament. 3. One who designs, makes, or collects medals.

medallion (mēdāl'yōn) *n.* 1. A large medal. 2. An emblem of registration for a taxicab. 3. Any of various large ancient Greek coins. 4. Something resembling a large medal, as: a. An oval or circular design used as decoration. b. A painting or an engraving set in an oval or circular frame. c. A circular portion of food, esp. a boneless cut of meat. [Fr. *medallion* < Ital. *medaglione*, aug. of *medaglia*, medal < OItal. See **MEDAL**.]

medallist (mēd'al-ist) *n.* Chiefly British. Var. of **medalist**. **Medal of Freedom** *n.* A decoration awarded by the United States to civilians for outstanding achievement.

Medal of Honor *n.* The Congressional Medal of Honor.

medal play *n.* Sports. Golf competition in which the total number of strokes taken is the basis of the score.

Medan (mā-dān'). A city of Indonesia on N Sumatra NNW of Padang. Pop. 1,378,955.

Medawar (mēd'ā-wər), Sir Peter Brian. 1915–87. British biologist who shared a 1960 Nobel Prize.

meddle (mēd'l) *intr.v.* -dled, -dles. 1. To intrude into other people's affairs or business; interfere. See **Syns at Interfere**. 2. To handle something idly or ignorantly; tamper. [ME *medlen* < AN *medler*, var. of OFr. *mesler* < VLat. **misculare*, to mix thoroughly < Lat. *miscere*, to mix. See *melk-*.]

meddler (mēd'lər, mēd'l-ər) *n.*

meddlesome (mēd'l-səm) *adj.* Inclined to meddle or interfere. — **meddlesomely** *adv.* — **meddlesomeness** *n.*

Mede (mēd) *n.* A member of an Iranian people, closely related to the Persians, inhabiting ancient Media. [Ult. < Gk. *Mēdos* < OPer. *Māda*.]

Medea (mē-dē-ə) *n.* Gk. Myth. A princess and sorceress of Colchis who helped Jason obtain the Golden Fleece.

Medellin (mēd'l-ēn', mē-thē-yēn'). A city of NW Colombia NW of Bogotá; founded 1675. Pop. 1,473,351.

medevac (mēd'ē-vāk') *n.* 1. Air transport of persons to a place where they can receive medical or surgical care; medical evacuation. 2. A helicopter or other aircraft used for such transport. [MEDICAL + EVACUATION].] — **medevac-ly** *adv.*

Medfly also **medfly** (mēd'flī') *n.* Informal. The Mediterranean fruit fly.

Medford (mēd'fərd). 1. A city of NE MA, a suburb of Boston; settled in 1630. Pop. 57,407. 2. A city of SW OR W of Klamath Falls. Pop. 46,951.

Med. Gr. *abbr.* Medieval Greek.

medi-a (mē'dē-ə) *n.* Pl. of **medium**. See **Usage Note at medium**.

medi-a (mē'dē-ə) *n.* 1. Ling. See **medial**. 2. The middle, often muscular layer of the wall of a blood vessel. [LLat. < Lat., fem. of Latin *medius*, middle. See **MEDIUM**.]

Medi-a (mē'dē-ə). An ancient country of SW Asia in present-day NW Iran; orig. settled by an Indo-European people and conquered c. 550 B.C. by Cyrus. — **Medi-an** *adj.* & *n.*

mediacy (mē'dē-ə-sē) *n.* The state or quality of being mediate.

mediaval (mē'dē-ə-val, mēd'ē-) *adj.* Var. of **medieval**.

mediavalism (mē'dē-ə-val-izm, mēd'ē-) *n.* Var. of **medievalism**.

mediavallist (mē'dē-ə-val-ist, mēd'ē-) *n.* Var. of **medievalist**.

media event *n.* 1. An occasion that attracts prominent coverage by news organizations. 2. Informal. Its central figure.

mediagenic (mē'dē-ə-jēn'ik) *adj.* Attractive as a subject for reporting by news media.

medi-al (mē'dē-əl) *adj.* 1. Relating to, situated in, or extending toward the middle; median. 2. Ling. Being a sound, syllable, or letter occurring between the initial and final positions in a word or morpheme. 3. Math. Being or relating to an average or a mean. 4. Average; ordinary. — *n.* Ling. 1. A voiced stop, such as (b), (d), or (g). 2. A sound, letter, or form of a letter that is neither initial nor final. [LLat. *medialis* < Lat. *medius*, middle. See **medial**.] — **medi-al-ly** *adv.*

medial strip *n.* Pennsylvania. See **median strip**. See **Regional Note at neutral ground**.

medi-an (mē'dē-ən) *adj.* 1. Relating to, located in, or extending toward the middle. 2. Anat. Of, relating to, or situated in or near the plane that divides a bilaterally symmetrical animal into right and left halves; mesial. 3. Statistics. Relating to or being the middle value in a series of values arranged in order of size. — *n.* 1. a. A median point, plane, line, or part. b. See **median strip**. See **Regional Note at neutral ground**. 2. Statistics. A median value. 3. Math. a. A line that joins a vertex of a triangle to the midpoint of the opposite side. b. The line that joins the midpoints of the nonparallel sides of a trapezoid. [Lat. *mediānus* < *medius*, middle. See **medial**.] — **medi-an-ly** *adv.*

median plane *n.* A plane dividing a bilaterally symmetrical animal into right and left halves.

median point *n.* Math. The intersection of the medians of a triangle.

median strip *n.* The dividing area between opposing lanes of traffic on some highways. Also called regionally **boulevard**.

ā pat	oi boy
ā pay	ou out
ār care	ōō took
ā father	ōō boot
ē pet	ū cut
ē be	ūr urge
ī plt	th thin
ī ple	th this
īr plr	hw which
ō pot	zh vision
ō toe	ā about
ō paw	item

Stress marks:
' (primary);
' (secondary), as in
dictionary (dīk'shə-nēr'ē)