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Old French *enduire*, partly from Latin *inducere* 'lead in' (see **INDUCE**), reinforced by the sense of Latin *induire* 'put on clothes.'

en-dur-a-ble /en'd(y)ʊrɪŋ/ ► **adj.** able to be endured; bearable: *my journey was long but **endurable**.*

en-dur-ance /en'd(y)ʊrəns/ ► **n.** the fact or power of enduring an unpleasant or difficult process or situation without giving way: *she was close to the limit of her **endurance**.* ■ the capacity of something to last or to withstand wear and tear.

— **ORIGIN** late 15th cent. (in the sense 'continued existence, ability to last'; formerly also as *indurance*): from Old French, from *endurer* 'make hard' (see **ENDURE**).

en-dure /en'd(y)ʊr/ ► **v. 1** [with obj.] suffer (something painful or difficult) patiently: *it seemed impossible that anyone could **endure** such pain.* **2** [no obj.] remain in existence; last: *these cities have **endured** through time.*

— **DERIVATIVES** **en-dur-er** **n.**

— **ORIGIN** Middle English: from Old French *endurer*, from Latin *indurare* 'harden', from *in-* 'in' + *durus* 'hard.'

en-dur-ing /en'd(y)ʊrɪŋ/ ► **adj.** continuing or long-lasting: *he formed a number of **enduring** relationships with women* | *an **enduring** problem.*

— **DERIVATIVES** **en-dur-ing-ly** **adv.**

en-dur-o /en'd(y)ʊrɔ/ ► **n.** (pl. **enduros**) a long-distance race, esp. for motor vehicles, motorcycles, or bicycles, typically over rough terrain, designed to test endurance.

— **ORIGIN** 1950s: from **ENDURANCE** + the informal suffix **-o**.

end use ► **n.** the application or function for which something is designed or for which it is ultimately used.

end us-er ► **n.** the person who actually uses a particular product.

end-ways /en(d)wəz/ (also **endwise** /-wɪz/) ► **adv.** with its end facing upward, forward, or toward the viewer: *a little town looking **endways** on to the river.* ■ in a row with the end of one object touching that of another: *strips of rubber cemented **endways**.*

En-dym-i-on /en'dɪmɪən/ Greek Mythology a remarkably beautiful young man, loved by the Moon (Selene). According to one story, he was put in an eternal sleep by Zeus for having fallen in love with Hera, and was then visited every night by Selene.

end zone ► **n. 1** Football the rectangular area at each end of the field into which the ball must be carried or passed and caught to score a touchdown. **2** Hockey the area at either end of the rink, extending from the blue line to the boards behind the goal.

ENE ► **abbr.** east-northeast.

-ene ► **suffix 1** denoting an inhabitant: *Nazarene.*

2 Chemistry forming names of unsaturated hydrocarbons containing a double bond: *benzene* | *ethylene.*

— **ORIGIN** from Greek *-ēnos*.

en éche-lon /ən'etʃə'lɒn/ ► **adj. & adv.** chiefly Geology in approximately parallel formation at an oblique angle to a particular direction.

— **ORIGIN** early 19th cent.: French, literally 'in rung formation.'

en-e-ma /enəmə/ ► **n.** (pl. **enemas** or rare **enemata** /ə'nemata/) a procedure in which liquid or gas is injected into the rectum, typically to expel its contents, but also to introduce drugs or permit X-ray imaging. ■ a quantity of fluid or a syringe used in such a procedure.

— **ORIGIN** late Middle English: via late Latin from Greek, from *enienai* 'send or put in', from *en-* 'in' + *hienai* 'send.'

en-e-my /enəmə/ ► **n.** (pl. **enemies**) a person who is actively opposed or hostile to someone or something. ■ (the **enemy**) [treated as sing. or pl.] a hostile nation or its armed forces or citizens, esp. in time of war: *the **enemy** shot down four helicopters* | [as modifier] ***enemy** aircraft.* ■ a thing that harms or weakens something else: *routine is the **enemy** of art.*

— **PHRASES** **be one's own worst enemy** act in a way contrary to one's own interests.

— **ORIGIN** Middle English: from Old French *enemi*, from Latin *inimicus*, from *in-* 'not' + *amicus* 'friend.'

en-er-get-ic /enə'jetɪk/ ► **adj.** showing or involving great activity or vitality: *energetic exercise.* ■ Physics characterized by a high level of energy (in the technical sense): *energetic X-rays.* ■ of or relating to energy (in the technical sense).

— **DERIVATIVES** **en-er-get-i-cal-ly** /-(ə)lɪ/ **adv.**

— **ORIGIN** mid 17th cent. (in the sense 'powerfully effective'): from Greek *energētikos*, from *energein* 'operate, work in or upon' (based on *ergon* 'work').

en-er-get-ics /enə'jetɪks/ ► **plural n. 1** the properties of something in terms of energy. **2** [treated as sing.] the branch of science dealing with the properties of energy and the way in which it is redistributed in physical, chemical, or biological processes.

— **DERIVATIVES** **en-er-get-i-cist** /-'jetɪsɪst/ **n.**

en-er-gize /'enər,jɪz/ ► **v.** [with obj.] give vitality and enthusiasm to: *people were **energized** by his ideas.*

■ supply energy, typically kinetic or electrical energy, to (something).

— **DERIVATIVES** **en-er-gize-r** **n.**

en-er-gu-men /enə'gɪdʊmən/ ► **n.** archaic a person believed to be possessed by the devil or a spirit.

— **ORIGIN** early 18th cent. (also denoting an enthusiast or fanatic): via late Latin from Greek *energoumenos*, passive participle of *energein* 'work in or upon.'

en-er-gy /enə'ɹj/ ► **n.** (pl. **energies**) **1** the strength and vitality required for sustained physical or mental activity: *changes in the levels of vitamins can affect energy and well-being.* ■ (energies) a person's physical and mental powers, typically as applied to a particular task or activity.

2 power derived from the utilization of physical or chemical resources, esp. to provide light and heat or to work machines.

3 Physics the property of matter and radiation that is manifest as a capacity to perform work (such as causing motion or the interaction of molecules): *a collision in which no energy is transferred.* ■ a degree or level of this capacity possessed by something or required by a process.

— **ORIGIN** mid 16th cent. (denoting force or vigor of expression): from French *énergie*, or via late Latin from Greek *energeia*, from *en-* 'in, within' + *ergon* 'work.'

en-er-gy au-dit ► **n.** an assessment of the energy needs and efficiency of a building or buildings.

en-er-gy ef-fi-ci-en-cy ra-ti-o (abbr.: **EER**) ► **n.** the ratio of a heating or cooling system's output, per hour, in British thermal units to the input in watts, used to measure the system's efficiency.

en-er-gy lev-el ► **n.** Physics the fixed amount of energy that a system described by quantum mechanics, such as a molecule, atom, electron, or nucleus, can have.

en-er-vate ► **v.** /enə'væt/ [with obj.] cause (someone) to feel drained of energy or vitality; weaken.

► **adj.** /enə'vɪt/ literary lacking in energy or vitality: *the **enervate** slowness of his frail form.*

— **DERIVATIVES** **en-er-va-tor** /-vætər/ **n.**

— **ORIGIN** early 17th cent.: from Latin *enervat* 'weakened (by extraction of the sinews)', from the verb *enervare*, from *e-* (variant of *ex-*) 'out of' + *nervus* 'sinew.'

en-er-vat-ing /enə'vætɪŋ/ ► **adj.** causing one to feel drained of energy or vitality: *the **enervating** humidity of the coast.*

en-er-va-tion /enə'væʃən/ ► **n.** a feeling of being drained of energy or vitality; fatigue: *a sense of **enervation**.*

En-e-we-tak variant spelling of **ENIWETOK**.

en face /ən'fæs/ ► **adv. & adj.** facing forward.

— **ORIGIN** mid 18th cent.: French.

en fa-mille /ən'fæmə/ ► **adv.** with one's family:

*when they went out **en famille**, Steven always drove.*

— **ORIGIN** early 18th cent.: French, literally 'in family.'

en-fant ter-ri-ble /ən'fænt te'rɪbl(ə)/ ► **n.** (pl. **enfants terribles** pronunc. **same**) a person whose unconventional or controversial behavior or ideas shock, embarrass, or annoy others.

— **ORIGIN** mid 19th cent.: French, literally 'terrible child.'

en-fee-ble /en'fēbəl/ ► **v.** [with obj.] make weak or feeble: (as **adj.** **enfeebled**) *trade unions are in an **enfeebled** state.*

— **DERIVATIVES** **en-fee-ble-ment** **n.**, **en-fee-ble-r** /-'fēblər/ **n.**

— **ORIGIN** Middle English: from Old French *enfeblir*, from *en-* (expressing a change of state) + *feble* 'feeble.'

en-feoff /en'fēf/ ► **v.** [with obj.] historical (under the feudal system) give (someone) freehold property or land in exchange for their pledged service.

■ give (property or land) in this way: *the lands were **enfeoffed** to the baron.*

— **DERIVATIVES** **en-feoff-ment** **n.**

— **ORIGIN** late Middle English: from Anglo-Norman French *enfeoffer*, from Old French *en-* 'in' + *fief* 'fief'. Compare with **FEOFFMENT**.

en-fet-ter /en'fetər/ ► **v.** [with obj.] literary restrain (someone) with shackles.

en-fe-vered /en'fēvəd/ ► **adj.** literary having or showing the signs of fever.

en-fi-lade /en'fɪləd, -lād/ ► **n. 1** a volley of gunfire directed along a line from end to end.

2 a suite of rooms with doorways in line with each other.

► **v.** [with obj.] direct a volley of gunfire along the length of (a target).

— **ORIGIN** early 18th cent. (denoting the position of a military post commanding the length of a line): from French, from *enfiler* 'thread on a string, pierce from end to end', from *en-* 'in, on' + *fil* 'thread.'

en-flesh /en'flesh/ ► **v.** [with obj.] literary give bodily form to; make real or concrete.

— **DERIVATIVES** **en-flesh-ment** **n.**

en-fleu-rage /ən'flɜːrʌʒ/ ► **n.** the extraction of essential oils and perfumes from flowers using odorless animal or vegetable fats.

— **ORIGIN** mid 19th cent.: French, from *enfleurier* 'saturate with the perfume from flowers.'

en-flu-rane /en'flʊːrən/ ► **n.** Medicine a volatile organic liquid used as a general anesthetic.

■ A halogenated ether; chem. formula: CHF3, OCF3, CHFCF3.

— **ORIGIN** 1970s: from *en-* (of unknown origin) + **FLUORO-** + **-ANE**.

en-fold /en'fɒld/ (also dated **in-fold**) ► **v.** [with obj.]

1 surround; envelop: *he shut off the engine and **silence** **enfolded** them.* ■ hold or clasp (someone) lovingly in one's arms.

2 fold or shape into folds.

— **DERIVATIVES** **en-fold-ment** **n.**

— **ORIGIN** late Middle English (in the sense 'involve, entail, imply'; formerly also as *in-fold*): from *en-*, *in-* 'within' + **FOLD**.

en-force /en'fɔːs/ ► **v.** [with obj.] compel observance of or compliance with (a law, rule, or obligation). ■ cause (something) to happen by necessity or force: *there is no outside agency to **enforce** cooperation between the players.*

— **DERIVATIVES** **en-force-a-bil-i-ty** /-fɔːsə'bɪlɪti/ **n.**, **en-force-a-ble** /-əbəl/ **adj.**, **en-force-r** **n.**

— **ORIGIN** Middle English (in the senses 'strive' and 'impel by force'; formerly also as *inforce*): from Old French *enforcir*, *enforcier*, based on Latin *in-* 'in' + *fortis* 'strong.'

en-forced /en'fɔːst/ ► **adj.** caused by necessity or force; compulsory: *a period of **enforced** idleness.*

— **DERIVATIVES** **en-forced-ly** /-sɪdli/ **adv.**

en-force-ment /en'fɔːsmənt/ ► **n.** the act of compelling observance of or compliance with a law, rule, or obligation: *the strict **enforcement** of environmental regulations.*

en-fran-chise /en'fran,ʃɪz/ ► **v.** [with obj.] give the right to vote to: *a proposal that foreigners should be **enfranchised** for local elections.* ■ historical free (a slave).

— **DERIVATIVES** **en-fran-chise-ment** **n.**

— **ORIGIN** late Middle English (formerly also as *infranchise*): from Old French *enfranchiss-*, lengthened stem of *enfranchir*, from *en-* (expressing a change of state) + *franc*, *franche* 'free.'

ENG ► **abbr.** electronic news gathering.

eng. ► **abbr.** ■ engine. ■ engineer. ■ engineering. ■ engraved. ■ engraver. ■ engraving.

en-gage /en'gɑːj/ ► **v. 1** [with obj.] occupy, attract, or involve (someone's interest or attention): *he plowed on, trying to outline his plans and **engage** Sutton's attention.* ■ (engage someone in) cause someone to become involved in (a conversation or discussion). ■ arrange to employ or hire (someone): *he was **engaged** as a trainee copywriter.* ■ [with infinitive] pledge or enter into a contract to do something: *he **engaged** to pay them \$10,000 against a bond.* ■ dated reserve (accommodations, a place, etc.) in advance: *he had **engaged** a small sailboat.*

2 [no obj.] (engage in) participate or become involved in: *organizations **engage** in a variety of activities* | (be engaged in) *some are actively engaged in crime.* ■ (engage with) establish a meaningful contact or connection with: *the teams needed to **engage** with local communities.* ■ (of a part of a machine or engine) move into position so as to come into operation: *the clutch will not **engage*** | [with obj.] *he **engaged** the gears and pulled out into the road.* ■ [with obj.] (Of fencers or swordsmen) bring (weapons) together preparatory to fighting. ■ [with obj.] enter into conflict or combat with (an adversary).

— **ORIGIN** late Middle English (formerly also as *engage*): from French *engager*, ultimately from the base of **GAGE**. The word originally meant 'to pawn or pledge something,' later 'pledge oneself (to do

something), hence 'enter into a contract' (mid 16th cent.), 'involve oneself in an activity,' 'enter into combat' (mid 17th cent.), giving rise to the notion 'involve someone or something else.'

en-ga-gé /'æŋgə'zɦə/ ► **adj.** (of a writer, artist, or their works) morally committed to a particular aim or cause.

— **ORIGIN** French, past participle of *engager* (see **ENGAGE**).

en-gaged /en'gaid/ ► **adj.** 1 [predic.] busy; occupied: *I told him I was otherwise engaged.* ■ Brit. (of a telephone line) unavailable because already in use. ■ (of a toilet) already in use.

2 having formally agreed to marry.

3 Architecture (of a column) attached to or partly let into a wall.

en-gage-ment /en'gaimənt/ ► **n.** 1 a formal agreement to get married. ■ the duration of such an agreement: *a good long engagement to give you time to be sure.*

2 an arrangement to do something or go somewhere at a fixed time: *a dinner engagement.*

3 the action of engaging or being engaged: *Britain's continued engagement in open trading | the engagement of the gears.*

4 a fight or battle between armed forces.

— **ORIGIN** early 17th cent. (in the general sense 'a legal or moral obligation'): French, from *engager* 'to pledge' (see **ENGAGE**).

en-gage-ment ring ► **n.** a ring given by a man to a woman when they agree to marry.

en-gag-ing /en'gajɪŋ/ ► **adj.** charming and attractive: *Sophie had a sunny personality that was very engaging.*

— **DERIVATIVES** **en-gag-ing-ly** **adv.**

en-gag-ing-ness **n.**

en garde /'æn'gɑ:rd, 'æn/ ► **exclam.** Fencing a direction to be ready to fence, taking the opening position for action.

— **ORIGIN** French *en garde* '(be) on guard.'

Eng-el-mann spruce /'eŋgəlmən/ (also **Engelmann's spruce**) ► **n.** a tall spruce found in the mountains of western North America and Mexico.

● *Picea engelmannii*, family Pinaceae.

— **ORIGIN** mid 19th cent.: named after George Engelmann (1809–84), American botanist.

Eng-gels /'eŋgəlz/, Friedrich (1820–95), German socialist and political philosopher. He collaborated with Karl Marx in the writing of the *Communist Manifesto* (1848) and translated and edited Marx's later work.

en-gend-er /en'jendə/ ► **v.** [with obj.] cause or give rise to (a feeling, situation, or condition): *the issue engendered continuing controversy.* ■ archaic (of a father) beget (offspring).

— **ORIGIN** Middle English (formerly also as *ingender*): from Old French *engendrer*, from Latin *ingenere*, from *in-* 'in' + *generare* 'beget' (see **GENERATE**).

en-gine /'enjən/ ► **n.** 1 a machine with moving parts that converts power into motion. ■ a thing that is the agent or instrument of a particular process: *exports used to be the engine of growth.*

2 a railroad locomotive. ■ short for **FIRE ENGINE**.

■ historical a mechanical device or instrument, esp. one used in warfare: *a siege engine.*

— **DERIVATIVES** **en-gined** **adj.** [in combination] *a twin-engined helicopter*, **en-gine-less** **adj.**

— **ORIGIN** Middle English (formerly also as *ingine*): from Old French *engin*, from Latin *ingenium* 'talent, device,' from *in-* 'in' + *gignere* 'beget'; compare with **INGENIOUS**. The original sense was 'ingenuity, cunning' (surviving in Scots as *ingine*), hence 'the product of ingenuity, a plot or snare,' also 'tool, weapon,' later specifically denoting a large mechanical weapon; whence a machine (mid 17th cent.), used commonly later in combinations such as *steam engine*, *internal combustion engine*.

en-gine block ► **n.** see **BLOCK** (sense 1 of the noun).

en-gine driv-er ► **n.** Brit. a driver of a locomotive; an engineer.

en-gi-neer /en'jɪniə/ ► **n.** a person who designs, builds, or maintains engines, machines, or public works. ■ a person qualified in a branch of engineering, esp. as a professional: *an aeronautical engineer.* ■ the operator or supervisor of an engine, esp. a railroad locomotive or the engine on an aircraft or ship. ■ a skillful contriver or originator of something: *the prime engineer of the approach.*

► **v.** [with obj.] design and build (a machine or structure): *the men who engineered the tunnel.*

■ skillfully or artfully arrange for (an event or situation) to occur: *she engineered another meeting with him.* ■ modify (an organism) by manipulating its genetic material: [as adj., with submodifier] *(engineered) genetically engineered plants.*

— **ORIGIN** Middle English (denoting a designer and constructor of fortifications and weapons; formerly also as *inginer*): in early use from Old French

engineor, from medieval Latin *ingeniator*, from *ingeniare* 'contrive, devise,' from Latin *ingenium* (see **ENGINE**); in later use from French *ingénieur* or Italian *ingegnere*, also based on Latin *ingenium*, with the ending influenced by **-EER**.

en-gi-neer-ing /en'jɪniə(r)ɪŋ/ ► **n.** the branch of science and technology concerned with the design, building, and use of engines, machines, and structures. ■ the work done by, or the occupation of, an engineer. ■ the action of working artfully to bring something about: *if not for Keegan's shrewd engineering, the election would have been lost.*

en-gi-neer-ing sci-ence (also **engineering sciences**) ► **n.** the parts of science concerned with the physical and mathematical basis of engineering and machine technology.

en-gi-ne room ► **n.** the room containing the engines, esp. in a ship.

en-gi-ne-ry /'enjənəri/ ► **n.** archaic engines collectively; machinery.

en-gi-ne turn-ing ► **n.** the decoration of metal or ceramic objects with regular engraved patterns using a lathe.

— **DERIVATIVES** **en-gi-ne-turned** **adj.**

en-gir-dle /en'gɑ:rdl/ (also **engird**) ► **v.** [with obj.] literary surround; encircle: *railroads engirdled this tract of country.*

en-gla-cial /en'gləʃəl/ ► **adj.** situated, occurring, or formed inside a glacier.

— **DERIVATIVES** **en-gla-cial-ly** **adv.**

Eng-land /'ɪŋ(g)lənd/ a European country that forms the largest and most southern part of Great Britain and of the United Kingdom, surrounded on three sides by water (Irish Sea on west, English Channel on south, North Sea on east); pop. 51,446,000 (est. 2008); capital, London; language, English.

England was conquered by the Romans in the first century ad, when it was inhabited by Celtic peoples. It was a Roman province until the early 5th century. During the 3rd–7th centuries Germanic-speaking tribes, traditionally known as Angles, Saxons, and Jutes, established a number of independent kingdoms there. England emerged as a distinct political entity in the 9th century before being conquered by William, Duke of Normandy, in 1066.

Eng-lish /'ɪŋ(g)lɪʃ/ ► **adj.** of or relating to England or its people or language.

► **n.** 1 the West Germanic language of England, now widely used in many varieties throughout the world.

2 (as plural noun **the English**) the people of England.

3 spin given to a ball, esp. in pool or billiards.

English is the principal language of Great Britain, the US, Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and many other countries. There are some 400 million native speakers, and it is the medium of communication for many millions more; it is the most widely used second language in the world. It belongs to the West Germanic group of Indo-European languages though its vocabulary has been much influenced by Old Norse, Norman French, and Latin.

— **DERIVATIVES** **Eng-lish-man** **n.** (pl. **Englishmen**), **Eng-lish-ness** **n.**, **Eng-lish-wom-an** **n.** (pl. **Englishwomen**).

— **ORIGIN** Old English *Englisc* (see **ANGLE**, **-ISH**). The word originally denoted the early Germanic settlers of Britain (Angles, Saxons, and Jutes), or their language (now called **OLD ENGLISH**).

Eng-lish bond ► **n.** Building a bond used in brickwork consisting of alternate courses of stretchers and headers.

Eng-lish break-fast (also **full English breakfast**) ► **n.** a substantial breakfast including hot cooked food such as bacon and eggs.

Eng-lish Ca-na-di-an ► **n.** a Canadian whose principal language is English.

► **adj.** of or relating to English-speaking Canadians.

Eng-lish Chan-nel a sea channel that separates southern England from northern France. It is 22 miles (35 km) wide at its narrowest point. A railroad tunnel (the Channel Tunnel) underneath the channel opened in 1994.

Eng-lish Civ-il War the war between Charles I and his Parliamentary opponents, 1642–49.

Civil war broke out after Charles refused to accede to a series of demands made by Parliament. The king's forces (the Royalists or Cavaliers) were decisively defeated by the Parliamentary forces (or Roundheads) at the Battle of Naseby (1645), and an attempt by Charles to regain power in alliance

with the Scots was defeated in 1648. Charles himself was tried and executed by Parliament in 1649.

Eng-lish horn ► **n.** Music an alto woodwind instrument of the oboe family, having a bulbous bell and sounding a fifth lower than the oboe.

Eng-lish i-vy ► **n.** see **IVY**.

Eng-lish muf-fin ► **n.** a flat circular spongy bread roll made from yeast dough and eaten split, toasted, and buttered.

Eng-lish mus-tard ► **n.** a kind of mustard made from mustard seeds milled to a powder, having a very hot taste and typically bright yellow in color.

Eng-lish Pale (also **the Pale**) that part of Ireland over which England exercised jurisdiction before the whole country was conquered. Centered in Dublin, it varied in extent at different times from the reign of Henry II until the full conquest under Elizabeth I.

— **ORIGIN** *Pale* from **PALE**.

Eng-lish set-ter ► **n.** a setter of a breed of dog with a long white or partly white coat.

Eng-lish son-net ► **n.** another term for **ELIZABETHAN SONNET**.

Eng-lish spar-row ► **n.** another term for **HOUSE SPARROW**.

Eng-lish spring-er ► **n.** (usu. **English springer spaniel**) see **SPRINGER** (sense 1).

en-globe /en'glɔ:b/ ► **v.** [with obj.] literary enclose in or shape into a globe.

en-gorge /en'gɔ:rdʒ/ ► **v.** 1 [with obj.] cause to swell with blood, water, or another fluid: *the river was engorged by a day-long deluge.*

2 (**engorge oneself**) archaic eat to excess.

— **DERIVATIVES** **en-gorge-ment** **n.**

— **ORIGIN** late 15th cent. (in the sense 'gorge; eat or fill to excess'): from Old French *engorgier* 'feed to excess,' from *en-* 'into' + *gorge* 'throat.'

en-gr. ► **abbr.** engineer. ■ engraved. ■ engraver.

■ engraving.

en-graft /en'graft/ (also **ingraft**) ► **v.** another term for **GRAFT**.

— **DERIVATIVES** **en-graft-ment** **n.**

en-grailed /en'graid/ ► **adj.** chiefly Heraldry having semicircular indentations along the edge. Compare with **INVECTED**.

en-grain /en'græn/ ► **v.** variant spelling of **INGRAIN**.

en-grained /en'grænd/ ► **adj.** variant spelling of **INGRAINED**.

en-gram /'enɡrəm/ ► **n.** a hypothetical permanent change in the brain accounting for the existence of memory; a memory trace.

— **DERIVATIVES** **en-gram-mat-ic** /en'grəmatik/ **adj.**

— **ORIGIN** early 20th cent.: coined in German from Greek *en-* 'within' + *gramma* 'letter of the alphabet.'

en-grave /en'græv/ ► **v.** [with obj.] (usu. **be engraved**) cut or carve (a text or design) on the surface of a hard object: *my name was engraved on the ring.* ■ cut or carve a text or design on (such an object). ■ cut (a design) as lines on a metal plate for printing. ■ (**be engraved on or in**) *be permanently fixed in (one's memory or mind): the image would be forever engraved in his memory.*

— **PHRASES** **be engraved in stone** see **STONE**.

— **DERIVATIVES** **en-grav-er** **n.**

— **ORIGIN** late 15th cent. (formerly also as *ingrave*): from *en-* 'in, on' + *grave*, influenced by obsolete French *engraver*.

en-grav-ing /en'grævɪŋ/ ► **n.** a print made from an engraved plate, block, or other surface. ■ the process or art of cutting or carving a design on a hard surface, esp. so as to make a print.

en-gross /en'grɔ:s/ ► **v.** [with obj.] 1 absorb all the attention or interest of: *the notes totally engrossed him.* ■ archaic gain or keep exclusive possession of (something): *the country had made the best of its position to engross trade.* [from Old French *en gros*, from medieval Latin *in grosso* 'wholesale.']

2 Law produce (a legal document) in its final or definitive form.

— **DERIVATIVES** **en-gross-ment** **n.**

— **ORIGIN** late Middle English (formerly also as *ingross*): based on *en-* 'in' + late Latin *grossus* 'large.'



English horn

PRONUNCIATION KEY ə ago, up; ʌ over, fur; a hat; ā ate; ā car; e let; ē see; i fit; i by; NG sing; ō go; ō law, for; o toy; ōō good; ōō goo; ou out; th thin; th then; zh vision

mastoid

mas-toid /ˈmɑːstɔɪd/ ► **adj.** Anatomy of or relating to the mastoid process: *mastoid disease*.
► **n.** Anatomy the mastoid process. ■ (**mastoids**) [treated as sing.] informal mastoiditis.

— **ORIGIN** mid 18th cent.: via French and modern Latin from Greek *mastoidēs* 'breast-shaped', from *mastos* 'breast'.

mas-toid-i-tis /ˌmɑːstɔɪdˈɪtɪs/ ► **n.** Medicine inflammation of the mastoid process.

mas-toid proc-ess ► **n.** a conical prominence of the temporal bone behind the ear, to which neck muscles are attached, and which has air spaces linked to the middle ear.

mas-tur-bate /ˈmɑːstərˌbɑːt/ ► **v.** [no obj.] stimulate one's own genitals for sexual pleasure. ■ [with obj.] stimulate the genitals of (someone) to give them sexual pleasure.

— **DERIVATIVES** **mas-tur-ba-tion** /ˈmɑːstərˌbɑːʃən/ **n.**, **mas-tur-ba-tor n.**, **mas-tur-ba-to-ry** /-bɔːrɪ/ **adj.**

— **ORIGIN** mid 19th cent.: from Latin *masturbat* 'masturbated', from the verb *masturbari*, of unknown ultimate origin.

Ma-su-ri-a /məˈsʊəriə/ a low-lying forested region in northeastern Poland. Formerly part of East Prussia, it was assigned to Poland after World War II. Also called **Masurian Lakes**.

MAT /mæt/ ► **n.** a technology that uses chemicals (usually petrolatum, dimethicone, and polyquaternium) to reduce the ability of bacteria to adhere to the skin: *the company is developing MAT-containing soaps*.

— **ORIGIN** abbr. of *microbial anti-attachment technology*.

MAT ► **abbr.** Master of Arts in Teaching.

mat /mæt/ ► **n.** 1 a piece of protective material placed on a floor, in particular: ■ a piece of coarse material placed on a floor for people to wipe their feet on. ■ a piece of resilient material for landing on in gymnastics, wrestling, or similar sports. ■ a small rug. ■ a piece of coarse material for lying on: *a beach mat*.

2 a small piece of cork, card, or similar material placed on a table or other surface to protect it from the heat or moisture of an object placed on it.
3 a thick, untidy layer of something hairy or woolly: *his chest was covered by a thick mat of soft fair hair*.

► **v.** (**mats**, **matting**, **matted**) [with obj.] tangle (something, esp. hair) in a thick mass: *sweat matted his hair* | *the fur on its flank was matted with blood*. ■ [no obj.] become tangled.

— **PHRASES** **go to the mat** informal vigorously engage in an argument or dispute, typically on behalf of a particular person or cause. **on the mat** informal being reprimanded by someone in authority, [with military reference to the orderly room mat, where an accused would stand before the commanding officer.]

— **ORIGIN** Old English *m(e)att(e)*; related to Dutch *māt* and German *Matte*, from late Latin *matra*, from Phoenician.

mat ► **n.** short for **MATRIX** (sense 2).

mat ► **adj.**, **n.**, & **v.** variant spelling of **MATTE**.

mat ► **abbr.** **m**atins. ■ maturity.

Mat-a-be-le /ˈmɑːbəl/ ► **n.** the Ndebele people collectively, particularly those of Zimbabwe.

— **ORIGIN** from Sotho *matebele*, singular *letebele*, the name given to this people.

mat-a-dor /ˈmɑːdədɔːr/ ► **n.** 1 a bullfighter whose task is to kill the bull.
2 (in ombre, skat, and other card games) any of the highest trumps.

3 a domino game in which halves are matched so as to make a total of seven. ■ any of the dominoes that have seven spots altogether, together with the double blank.

— **ORIGIN** Spanish, literally 'killer', from *matar* 'to kill', from Persian *māt* 'dead'; senses relating to games are extended uses, expressing a notion of dominance or control.

Mat-a-gor-da Bay /ˈmɑːtəˈɡɔːdə/ an inlet of the Gulf of Mexico in southeastern Texas, at the mouth of the Colorado River.

Ma-ta-Ha-ri /ˈmɑːtəˈhɑːrɪ/ (1876–1917), Dutch dancer and secret agent; born *Margaretha Geertruida Zelle*. She probably worked for both French and German intelligence services before being executed by the French in 1917. ■ (as noun **a Mata Hari**) a beautiful and seductive female spy.

— **ORIGIN** from Malay *mata* 'eye' and *hari* 'day', as a compound meaning 'sun'.

ma-ta-ma-ta /ˈmɑːtəˈmɑːtə/ ► **n.** a grotesque South American freshwater turtle that has a broad flat head and neck with irregular projections of skin resembling waterweed. ■ *Chelus fimbriatus*, family Chelidae.

— **ORIGIN** mid 19th cent.: of unknown origin; probably from a South American Indian language.

1078

Mat-a-nus-ka Val-ley /ˈmɑːtəˈnɔːskə/ an agricultural region in south central Alaska, northeast of Anchorage.

match /mætʃ/ ► **n.** 1 a contest in which people or teams compete against each other in a particular sport: *a boxing match*.

2 a person or thing able to contend with another as an equal in quality or strength: *they were no match for the trained mercenaries*.

3 a person or thing that resembles or corresponds to another: *the child's identical twin would be a perfect match for organ donation*. ■ Computing a string that fulfills the specified conditions of a computer search. ■ a pair that corresponds or is very similar: *the headresses and bouquet were a perfect match*. ■ the fact or appearance of corresponding: *stones of a perfect match and color*.

4 a person viewed in regard to their eligibility for marriage, esp. as regards class or wealth: *he was an unsuitable match for any of their girls*. ■ a marriage: *a dynastic match*.

► **v.** [with obj.] 1 correspond or cause to correspond in some essential respect; make or be harmonious: [with obj.] *we bought green and blue curtains to match the bedspread* | *she matched her steps to his* | [no obj.] *the jacket and pants do not match*. ■ team (someone or something) with someone or something else appropriate or harmonious: *they matched suitably qualified applicants with institutions that had vacancies* | *she was trying to match the draperies to the couch*.

2 be equal to (something) in quality or strength: *his anger matched her own*. ■ succeed in reaching or equalling (a standard or quality): *he tried to match her nonchalance*. ■ equalize (two coupled electrical impedances) so as to bring about the maximum transfer of power from one to the other.

3 place (a person or group) in contest or competition with another: *the big names were matched against nobodies* (as adj., with submodifier **matched**) *evenly matched teams*.

— **PHRASES** **make a match** form a partnership, esp. by getting married. **meet one's match** encounter one's equal in strength or ability: *Iris had met her match*. **to match** corresponding in some essential respect with something previously mentioned or chosen: *a new coat and a hat to match*.

— **PHRASAL VERBS** **match up** to be as good as or equal to: *she matches up to the challenges of the job*. **match someone with** archaic bring about the marriage of someone to: *try if you can to match her with a duke*.

— **DERIVATIVES** **match-a-ble** **adj.**

— **ORIGIN** Old English *gemæcca* 'mate, companion'; related to the base of **MAKE**.

match ► **n.** a short, thin piece of wood or cardboard used to light a fire, being tipped with a composition that ignites when rubbed against a rough surface.

■ historical a piece of wick or cord designed to burn at a uniform rate, used for firing a cannon or lighting gunpowder.

— **PHRASES** **put a match to** set fire to.

— **ORIGIN** late Middle English (in the sense 'wick of a candle'): from Old French *meche*, perhaps from Latin *myxa* 'spout of a lamp', later 'lamp wick'.

match-board /ˈmætʃˌbɔːrd/ ► **n.** any of a set of interlocking boards joined together by a tongue cut along the edge of one board and fitting into a groove along the edge of another. Also called **matched board**.

match-book /ˈmætʃˌbʊk/ ► **n.** a small cardboard folder of matches with a striking surface on one side.

match-box /ˈmætʃˌbɔːks/ ► **n.** a small box in which matches are sold. ■ [usu. as modifier] something very small, esp. a house, apartment, or room: *her new thimble-sized, matchbox apartment*.

match-ing /ˈmætʃɪŋ/ ► **adj.** 1 corresponding in pattern, color, or design; complementary: *a blue jacket and matching skirt*.

2 equal in number or amount; equivalent: *the college will provide matching funds to complete the project*.

match-less /ˈmætʃlɪs/ ► **adj.** unable to be equaled; incomparable: *the Parthenon has a matchless beauty*.

— **DERIVATIVES** **match-less-ly** **adv.**

match-lock /ˈmætʃˌlɒk/ ► **n.** historical a type of gun with a lock in which a piece of wick or cord is placed for igniting the powder: [as modifier] *matchlock guns*. ■ a lock of this kind.

match-mak-er /ˈmætʃˌmɑːkər/ ► **n.** a person who arranges relationships and marriages between others, either informally or, in certain cultural communities, as a formal occupation. ■ a person or company that brings parties together for commercial purposes.

— **DERIVATIVES** **match-mak-ing** /-ˌmɑːkɪŋ/ **n.**

match play ► **n.** play in golf in which the score is reckoned by counting the holes won by each side, as

material

opposed to the number of strokes taken. Compare with **STROKE PLAY**.

match point ► **n.** 1 (in tennis and other sports) a point that if won by one contestant will also win the match.

2 (**matchpoint**) (in duplicate bridge) a unit of scoring in matches and tournaments: *a convincing margin of 54 matchpoints*.

match-stick /ˈmætʃˌstɪk/ ► **n.** the stem of a match, esp. a wooden one. ■ something likened to a match in being long and thin: *cut the vegetables into matchsticks* | [as modifier] *matchstick legs*.

match-up /ˈmætʃəp/ ► **n.** a contest between athletes or sports teams: *a matchup of two twenty-something pitchers wondering what it is like to win in the majors*. ■ Basketball another term for a man-to-man defense. See **MAN-TO-MAN** at **MAN**.

match-wood /ˈmætʃˌwʊd/ ► **n.** very small pieces or splinters of wood: *their boat was shattered into matchwood against the rocks*. ■ light wood suitable for making matches.

mate /meɪt/ ► **n.** 1 each of a pair of birds or other animals: *a male bird sings to court a mate*. ■ informal a person's husband, wife, or other sexual partner. ■ informal one of a matched pair: *a sock without its mate*.

2 [in combination] a fellow member or joint occupant of a specified thing: *his tablemates*. ■ Brit. informal used as a friendly form of address between men or boys: *'See you then, mate.'* ■ Brit. informal a friend or companion: *I was with a mate | my best mate, Steve*. 3 an assistant or deputy, in particular: ■ an assistant to a skilled worker: *a plumber's mate*. ■ a deck officer on a merchant ship subordinate to the master. See also **FIRST MATE**.

► **v.** 1 [no obj.] (Of animals or birds) come together for breeding; copulate: *successful males may mate with many females*. ■ [with obj.] bring (animals or birds) together for breeding. ■ join in marriage or sexual partnership: *people tend to mate with others in their own social class*.

2 connect or be connected mechanically. [with obj.] *a four-cylinder engine mated to a five-speed gearbox*.

— **DERIVATIVES** **mate-less** **adj.**

— **ORIGIN** late Middle English: from Middle Low German *māt(e)* 'comrade', of West Germanic origin; related to **MEAT** (the underlying notion being that of eating together).

mate ► **n.** & **v.** Chess short for **CHECKMATE**.

— **ORIGIN** Middle English: the noun from Anglo-Norman French *mat* (from the phrase *eschec mat* 'checkmate'); the verb from Anglo-Norman French *mater* 'to checkmate'.

ma-té /ˈmɑːtə/ (also **yerba maté**) ► **n.** 1 (also **maté tea**) an infusion of the leaves of a South American shrub, which is high in caffeine and bitter. ■ the leaves of this shrub.

2 the South American shrub of the holly family that produces these leaves. ■ *Ilex paraguariensis*, family Aquifoliaceae.

— **ORIGIN** early 18th cent.: from Spanish *mate*, from Quechua *mati*.

mat-e-las-sé /ˈmɑːtəˌlɑːsə/ ► **adj.** (Of a silk or wool fabric) having a raised design like quilting.

► **n.** fabric of this type.

— **ORIGIN** late 19th cent.: French, literally 'quilted', past participle of *matelasser*, from *matelas* 'mattress'.

mate-lot /ˈmɑːtəˌlɒt/ ► **n.** Brit. informal a sailor. — **ORIGIN** mid 19th cent. (nautical slang): from French, variant of *matenot*, from Middle Dutch *mattenoot* 'bed companion', because sailors had to share hammocks in twos.

mat-e-lote /ˈmɑːtəˌlɒt/ ► **n.** a dish of fish in a sauce of wine and onions.

— **ORIGIN** French, from *à la matelote*, literally 'mariner-style', from *matelot* 'sailor' (see **MATELOT**).

ma-ter /ˈmɑːtər/ ► **n.** Brit. informal or dated mother: *the mater has kept the house in London*.

— **ORIGIN** Latin.

ma-ter do-lo-ro-sa /ˈmɑːtərˌdɒləˈrɔːsə/ ► **n.** the Virgin Mary sorrowing for the death of Jesus Christ, esp. as a representation in art.

— **ORIGIN** from medieval Latin, 'sorrowful mother'.

ma-ter-fa-mil-i-as /ˈmɑːtərˌfæˌmɪliəs/ ► **n.** (pl. **matresfamilias** /ˈmɑːtrəsˌˌmɑːtərz-/) the female head of a family or household. Compare with **PATERFAMILIAS**.

— **ORIGIN** Latin, from *mater* 'mother' + *familias*, old genitive form of *familia* 'family'.

ma-te-ri-al /ˈmɑːtəri(ə)əl/ ► **n.** 1 the matter from which a thing is or can be made: *goats can eat more or less any plant material* | *materials such as brass | highly flammable materials*. ■ (usu. **materials**) things needed for an activity: *cleaning materials*. ■ [with adj. or noun modifier] a person of a specified

quality or suitability: *he's not really Olympic material.*

2 facts, information, or ideas for use in creating a book or other work: *there is much good material here for priests to use in sermons.* ■ items, esp. songs or jokes, comprising a performer's act: *a band playing original material.*

3 cloth or fabric: *a piece of dark material | dress materials.*

► **adj.** 1 [attrib.] denoting or consisting of physical objects rather than the mind or spirit: *the material world | moral and material support.* ■ concerned with physical needs or desires: *material living standards have risen.* ■ concerned with the matter of reasoning, not its form: *political conflict lacks mathematical or material certitude.*

2 important; essential; relevant: *the insects did not do any material damage to the crop.* ■ chiefly law (of evidence or a fact) significant, influential, or relevant, esp. to the extent of determining a cause or affecting a judgment: *information that could be material to a murder inquiry.*

— **ORIGIN** late Middle English (in the sense 'relating to matter'): from late Latin *materialis*, adjective from Latin *materia* 'matter'.

ma-te-ri-al cause ► **n.** Philosophy (in Aristotelian thought) the matter or substance that constitutes a thing.

ma-te-ri-al-ism /mə'ti(ə)rēə'lizəm/ ► **n.** 1 a tendency to consider material possessions and physical comfort as more important than spiritual values.

2 Philosophy the doctrine that nothing exists except matter and its movements and modifications. ■ the doctrine that consciousness and will are wholly due to material agency. See also **DICTIONAL MATERIALISM**.

— **DERIVATIVES** **ma-te-ri-al-ist** **n.** & **adj.**

ma-te-ri-al-is-tic /mə'ti(ə)rēə'lɪstɪk/ ► **adj.** excessively concerned with material possessions; money-oriented: *we're living in a highly materialistic society.*

— **DERIVATIVES** **ma-te-ri-al-is-ti-cal-ly** **adv.**

ma-te-ri-al-ity /mə'ti(ə)rēə'lɪtɪ/ ► **n.** (pl. **materialities**) the quality or character of being material or composed of matter. ■ chiefly law the quality of being relevant or significant: *the applicant must establish materiality on the balance of probabilities.*

ma-te-ri-al-ize /mə'ti(ə)rēə'lɪz/ ► **v.** [no obj.] 1 (of a ghost, spirit, or similar entity) appear in bodily form. ■ [with obj.] cause to appear in bodily or physical form.

2 become actual fact; happen: *the assumed savings may not materialize.* ■ appear or be present: *the train didn't materialize.*

— **DERIVATIVES** **ma-te-ri-al-i-za-tion** /mə'ti(ə)rēə'lə'zəʃən/ **n.**

ma-te-ri-al-ly /mə'ti(ə)rēə'lɪ/ ► **adv.** 1 [often as submodifier] substantially; considerably: *materially different circumstances.*

2 in terms of wealth or material possessions: *a materially and culturally rich area.*

ma-te-ri-al wit-ness ► **n.** law a witness whose evidence is likely to be sufficiently important to influence the outcome of a trial.

ma-te-ria med-i-ca /mə'ti(ə)rēə'medɪkə/ ► **n.** the body of remedial substances used in the practice of medicine. ■ the study of the origin and properties of these substances.

— **ORIGIN** late 17th cent.: modern Latin, translation of Greek *hulē iatrikē* 'healing material' (the title of a work by Dioscorides).

ma-te-ri-el /mə'ti(ə)rēə'l/ (also **matériel**) ► **n.** military materials and equipment. Often contrasted with **PERSONNEL**.

— **ORIGIN** early 19th cent.: from French *matériel*, adjective (used as a noun).

ma-ter-nal /mə'tərnəl/ ► **adj.** of or relating to a mother, esp. during pregnancy or shortly after childbirth: *maternal age | maternal care.* ■ [attrib.] related through the mother's side of the family: *my maternal grandfather.* ■ denoting feelings associated with or typical of a mother; motherly: *maternal instincts.*

— **DERIVATIVES** **ma-ter-nal-ism** /-ɪzəm/ **n.**, **ma-ter-nal-ist** /-ɪst/ **adj.**, **ma-ter-nal-is-tic** /mə'tərnəlɪstɪk/ **adj.**, **ma-ter-nal-ly** **adv.**

— **ORIGIN** late 15th cent.: from French *maternel*, from Latin *maternus*, from *mater* 'mother'.

ma-ter-ni-ty /mə'tərnə'tɪ/ ► **n.** motherhood. ■ [usu. as modifier] the period during pregnancy and shortly after childbirth: *maternity leave | maternity clothes.*

— **ORIGIN** early 17th cent.: from French *maternité*, from Latin *maternus*, from *mater* 'mother'.

mate-y /'mæte/ **Brit. informal** ► **n.** used as a familiar and sometimes hostile form of address, esp. to a stranger: *"Shove off, matey, she's mine."*

► **adj.** (**matier, matiest**) familiar and friendly; sociable: *a fixed, matey grin.*

math /mæθ/ ► **n.** informal mathematics: *she teaches math and science.*

— **ORIGIN** mid 19th cent.: abbreviation.

math-e-mat-i-cal /ˌmæθ(ə)'matɪkəl/ (also **mathematic**) ► **adj.** of or relating to mathematics: *mathematical equations.* ■ (of a proof or analysis) rigorously precise: *mathematical thinking | figurative he arranged the meal with mathematical precision on a plate.*

— **DERIVATIVES** **math-e-mat-i-cal-ly** /-ɪk(ə)lē/ **adv.**

— **ORIGIN** late Middle English: from Latin *mathematicus*, from Greek *mathēmatikos*, from *mathēma*, *mathēmat-* 'science', from the base of *manthanein* 'learn'.

math-e-mat-i-cal in-duc-tion ► **n.** see **INDUCTION** (sense 3).

math-e-mat-i-cal log-ic ► **n.** the part of mathematics concerned with the study of formal languages, formal reasoning, the nature of mathematical proof, provability of mathematical statements, computability, and other aspects of the foundations of mathematics.

math-e-ma-ti-cian /ˌmæθ(ə)'mætɪʃən/ ► **n.** an expert in or student of mathematics.

— **ORIGIN** late Middle English: from Old French *mathematicien*, from Latin *mathematicus* 'mathematical', from Greek *mathēmatikos* (see **MATHEMATICAL**).

math-e-mat-ics /ˌmæθ(ə)'matɪks/ ► **plural n.** [usu. treated as sing.] the abstract science of number, quantity, and space. Mathematics may be studied in its own right (**pure mathematics**), or as it is applied to other disciplines such as physics and engineering (**applied mathematics**). ■ [often treated as pl.] the mathematical aspects of something: *the mathematics of general relativity.*

— **ORIGIN** late 16th cent.: plural of obsolete *'mathematic'* 'mathematics', from Old French *mathématique*, from Latin (*ars*) *mathematica* 'mathematical (art)', from Greek *mathēmatikē* (*tekhne*), from the base of *manthanein* 'learn'.

math-e-ma-tize /ˌmæθ(ə)'mæ'tɪz/ ► **v.** [with obj.] regard or treat (a subject or problem) in mathematical terms.

— **DERIVATIVES** **math-e-ma-ti-za-tion** /ˌmæθ(ə)'mæ'tə'zəʃən/ **n.**

Math-er¹ /'mæθər/, Cotton (1663–1728), American minister and writer; son of Increase Mather. Noted for his political writings, he sponsored the Massachusetts charter in 1691 and is thought to have influenced the events that led to the Salem witch trials in 1692.

Math-er², Increase (1639–1723), American minister; father of Cotton Mather. A Congregationalist, he was the pastor of North Church in Boston 1664–1723 and the president of Harvard College 1685–1701.

Math-er³, John Cromwell (1946–), US astrophysicist. His work with George Smoot on the COBE project advanced the study of the Big Bang theory. Nobel Prize for Physics (2006), shared with Smoot.

Math-ew-son /'mæθyŋsən/, Christy (1880–1925), US baseball player; full name *Christopher Mathewson*. A pitcher for the New York Giants 1900–1916, he won 22 or more games per year for 12 straight years and pitched three shutouts in the 1905 World Series. He later managed the Cincinnati Reds 1916–18 and was president of the Boston Braves 1923–25; Baseball Hall of Fame (1936).

Ma-thi-as /mə'thi:əs/, Bob (1930–2006), US track and field athlete and politician; full name *Robert Bruce Mathias*. At 17, he was the youngest winner of the decathlon with a gold medal in the 1948 Olympic Games and another in the 1952 games. He later served as a Republican member of the US House of Representatives from California 1967–1975.

maths /mæθs/ ► **plural n.** [treated as sing.] Brit. informal mathematics: [as modifier] *her mother was a maths teacher.*

— **ORIGIN** early 20th cent.: abbreviation.

Ma-til-da¹ /mə'tɪldə/ (1102–67), English princess; daughter of Henry I and mother of Henry II; known as the *Empress Maud*. Henry's only legitimate child, she was named his heir, but her cousin Stephen seized the throne on Henry's death in 1135. She waged an unsuccessful civil war against Stephen until 1148.

Ma-til-da² ► **n.** Austral. informal a bushman's bundle of possessions carried when travelling.

— **PHRASES** **waltz** (or **walk**) **Matilda** carry such a bundle.

— **ORIGIN** late 19th cent.: from the given name *Matilda*.

mat-in-al /ˌmætn-/ ► **adj.** rare relating to or taking place in the morning.

— **ORIGIN** early 19th cent.: from French, from *matin* 'morning'.

mat-i-nee /ˌmætnə/ (also **matinée**) ► **n.** a performance in a theater or a showing of a movie that takes place in the daytime.

— **ORIGIN** mid 19th cent.: from French *matinée*, literally 'morning (as a period of activity)', from *matin* 'morning'.

mat-i-nee i-dol ► **n.** informal, dated a handsome actor admired chiefly by women.

mat-ing /'mætɪŋ/ ► **n.** the action of animals coming together to breed; copulation: *ovulation occurs only if mating has taken place.*

mat-ins /ˌmætnz/ (Brit. also **matins**) ► **n.** a service of morning prayer in various churches, esp. the Anglican Church. ■ a service forming part of the traditional Divine Office of the Western Christian Church, originally said (or chanted) at or after midnight, but historically often held with lauds on the previous evening. ■ (also **matin**) literary the morning song of birds.

— **ORIGIN** Middle English: from Old French *matines*, plural (influenced by ecclesiastical Latin *matutinae* 'morning prayers') of *matin* 'morning', from Latin *matutinum*, neuter of *matutinus* 'early in the morning', from *Matuta*, the name of the dawn goddess.

Ma-tisse /mə'tēs, mə-/ (Henri (Emile) Benoît) (1869–1954), French painter and sculptor. His use of nonnaturalistic color led him to be considered a leader among the Fauvists. His later paintings and sculptures display a trend toward formal simplification and abstraction.

Ma-to Gros-so /ˌmæ'tə'grɒsɒ/ a high plateau region in southwestern Brazil that forms a watershed between the Amazon and Plate river systems.

— **ORIGIN** Portuguese, literally 'dense forest'.

ma-tri-arch /'mætrɪ'ɑrk/ ► **n.** a woman who is the head of a family or tribe. ■ an older woman who is powerful within a family or organization: *a domineering matriarch.*

— **DERIVATIVES** **ma-tri-ar-chal** /'mætrɪ'ɑrkəl/ **adj.**

— **ORIGIN** early 17th cent.: from Latin *mater* 'mother', on the false analogy of *patriarch*.

ma-tri-ar-chate /'mætrɪ'ɑrkət, -'ɑrkət/ ► **n.** a matriarchal form of social organization, esp. in a tribal society.

ma-tri-ar-chy /'mætrɪ'ɑrkə/ ► **n.** (pl. **matriarchies**) a system of society or government ruled by a woman or women. ■ a form of social organization in which descent and relationship are reckoned through the female line. ■ the state of being an older, powerful woman in a family or group: *she cherished a dream of matriarchy—catered to by grandchildren.*

ma-tri-ces /'mætrə'seɪz/ plural form of **MATRIX**.

mat-ri-cide /ˌmætrə'sɪd, -mə-/ ► **n.** the killing of one's mother: *a man suspected of matricide.* ■ a person who kills their mother.

— **DERIVATIVES** **mat-ri-cid-al** /ˌmætrə'sɪdl, -mə-/ **adj.**

— **ORIGIN** late 16th cent.: from Latin *matricidium*, from *mater*, *matr-* 'mother' + *-cidium* (see **-CIDE**).

ma-tric-u-late /ˌmætrɪkju'leɪt/ ► **v.** 1 [no obj.] be enrolled at a college or university: *he matriculated at the University of Vermont.* ■ [with obj.] admit (a student) to a college or university.

2 [with obj.] Heraldry, chiefly Scottish record (arms) in an official register.

► **n.** /ˌmætrɪkju'leɪt/ chiefly Indian a person who has matriculated.

— **DERIVATIVES** **ma-tric-u-la-tion** /ˌmætrɪkju'ləʃən/ **n.**

— **ORIGIN** late 16th cent.: from medieval Latin *matriculat* 'enrolled', from the verb *matriculare*, from late Latin *matricula* 'register', diminutive of Latin *matrix*.

mat-ri-fo-cal /ˌmætrɪ'fɒkəl, -mə-/ ► **adj.** (of a society, culture, etc.) based on the mother as the head of the family or household.

— **ORIGIN** 1950s: from Latin *mater*, *matr-* 'mother' + **FOCAL**.

mat-ri-lin-e-al /ˌmætrə'linēəl, -mə-/ ► **adj.** of or based on kinship with the mother or the female line.

— **DERIVATIVES** **mat-ri-lin-e-al-ly** **adv.**

— **ORIGIN** early 20th cent.: from Latin *mater*, *matr-* 'mother' + **LINEAL**.

mat-ri-lo-cal /ˌmætrə'lɒkəl, -mə-/ ► **adj.** of or denoting a custom in marriage whereby the husband goes to live with the wife's community.

— **DERIVATIVES** **mat-ri-lo-cal-i-ty** /-lɒ'kalə'tɪ/ **n.**

PRONUNCIATION KEY ə ago, up; ʌ over, fur; a hat; ā ate; ā car; e let; ē see; ɪ fit; ɪ by; ŋc sing; ō go; ō law, for; o toy; ōō good; ōō goo; ou out; th thin; th then; zh vision