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cad·e·mism (ə-kād'ə-mīz'əm) ▶ *n.* Traditional formalism, esp. when reflected in art.

ac·a·dem·ics (āk'ə-dēm'iks) ▶ *n.* (takes pl. *v.*) College or university studies.

a·cad·e·my (ə-kād'ə-mē) ▶ *n., pl. -mies* 1. A school for special instruction. 2. A secondary or college-preparatory school, esp. a private one. 3a. Academia. b. A society of scholars, scientists, or artists. [*< Gk. Akadēmia, school where Plato taught.*]

A·ca·di·a (ə-kā'dē-ə) A region and former French colony of E Canada and E ME. —**A·ca·di·an** *adj. & n.*

a·can·thus (ə-kān'thəs) ▶ *n., pl. -thus·es or -thi (-thī')* 1. Any of various Mediterranean shrubs with large, segmented, thistlelike leaves. 2. *Archit.* A design patterned after acanthus leaves. [*< Gk. akantha, thorn.*]

a cap·pel·la (ā' kə-pēl'ə) ▶ *adv. Mus.* Without instrumental accompaniment. [*Ital., chapel style.*]

ac·cede (āk-sēd') ▶ *v. -ced·ed, -ced·ing* 1. To give one's consent; agree. 2. To come into an office or dignity: *accede to the throne.* [*< Lat. accēdere, go near.*] —**ac·ced·ence** *n.*

ac·cel·er·an·do (ā-chēl'ə-rān'dō) ▶ *adv. & adj. Mus.* Gradually accelerating in tempo. [*Ital.*]

ac·cel·er·ant (āk-sēl'ər-ənt) ▶ *n.* A substance used as a catalyst, as in spreading an intentionally set fire.

ac·cel·er·ate (āk-sēl'ə-rāt') ▶ *v. -at·ed, -at·ing* 1. To make or become faster. 2. To cause to occur sooner than expected. 3. To cause to develop or progress more quickly. [*Lat. accelerāre.*] —**ac·cel·er·a·tion** *n.* —**ac·cel·er·a·tive** *adj.*

ac·cel·er·a·tor (āk-sēl'ə-rā'tər) ▶ *n.* 1. A device, esp. the gas pedal of a motor vehicle, for increasing speed. 2. *Chem.* A substance that increases the speed of a reaction. 3. *Phys.* A particle accelerator.

ac·cel·er·om·e·ter (āk-sēl'ə-rōm'i-tər) ▶ *n.* An instrument used to measure acceleration.

ac·cent (āk'sent') ▶ *n.* 1. Vocal emphasis given to a particular syllable, word, or phrase. 2. A characteristic manner of speech or pronunciation: *a British accent.* 3. A mark placed over a letter to indicate vocal stress or phonetic quality: *an acute accent.* 4. Rhythmical stress in a line of verse. 5. A distinctive quality, as of decorative style. 6. Particular importance or interest. See Synonyms at **emphasis**. ▶ *v.* To stress or emphasize. [*< Lat. accentus, accentuation.*]

ac·cen·tu·ate (āk-sēn'choō-āt') ▶ *v. -at·ed, -at·ing* To stress; accent.

ac·cept ▶ *v.* 1. To receive willingly: *accepted a glass of water.* 2. To admit to a group or place. 3. To regard as proper or true: *accept a new theory.* 4. To answer affirmatively: *accept an invitation.* 5. To consent to pay, as by a signed agreement. 6. To take payment in the form of: *does not accept checks.* 7. *Med.* To receive without immunological rejection. [*< Lat. accipere, take on, receive.*]

ac·cept·a·ble (āk-sēp'tə-bəl) ▶ *adj.* 1. Adequate; satisfactory: *an acceptable excuse.* See Synonyms at **sufficient**. 2. Satisfactory but not superior; passable. —**ac·cept·a·bil·i·ty** *n.* —**ac·cept·a·bly** *adv.*

ac·cep·tance (āk-sēp'təns) ▶ *n.* 1. The act or process of accepting. 2. The state of being

accepted or acceptable. 3. A formal agreement to pay a draft or bill of exchange.

ac·cept·ed (āk-sēp'tid) ▶ *adj.* Widely encountered, used, or recognized.

ac·cep·tor (āk-sēp'tər) ▶ *n. Chem.* An atom that incorporates electrons to form a bond with another atom.

ac·cess (āk'sēs) ▶ *n.* 1. A means of approaching, entering, exiting, communicating with, or making use of. 2. The ability or right to approach, enter, exit, communicate with, or make use of: *has access to classified material.* 3. An outburst: *an access of rage.* ▶ *v.* To obtain access to, esp. by computer. [*< Lat. accēdere, access-, come toward.*]

ac·ces·si·ble (āk-sēs'ə-bəl) ▶ *adj.* Easily approached, entered, or obtained. —**ac·ces·si·bil·i·ty** *n.* —**ac·ces·si·bly** *adv.*

ac·ces·sion (āk-sēs'hən) ▶ *n.* 1. The attainment of a dignity or rank. 2a. Something acquired or added. b. An increase by means of something added. —**ac·ces·sion·al** *adj.*

ac·ces·so·ry (āk-sēs'ə-rē) ▶ *n., pl. -ries* 1a. A supplementary item; adjunct. b. Something nonessential but desirable. 2. *Law* One who knowingly assists a lawbreaker in the commission of a crime but does not actually participate in that crime. ▶ *adj.* Supplementary; adjunct.

ac·ci·dent (āk'sī-dənt) ▶ *n.* 1a. An unexpected, undesirable event. b. An unforeseen incident. 2. Chance; fortuity: *discovered the secret by accident.* 3. *Philos.* An attribute that is not essential to the nature of something. [*< Lat. accidere, happen.*]

ac·ci·den·tal (āk'sī-dēn'tl) ▶ *adj.* Occurring unexpectedly, unintentionally, or by chance. ▶ *n. Mus.* A sharp, flat, or natural not indicated in the key signature. —**ac·ci·den·tal·ly** *adv.*

ac·cip·i·ter (āk-sip'i-tər) ▶ *n.* Any of several hawks with short wings and a long tail. [*Lat.*]

ac·claim (ə-klām') ▶ *v.* To praise openly and enthusiastically; applaud. ▶ *n.* Enthusiastic applause; acclamation. [*< Lat. acclāmāre, shout at.*] —**ac·claim·er** *n.*

ac·cla·ma·tion (āk'lə-mā'shən) ▶ *n.* 1. A show of enthusiastic approval. 2. An oral vote, esp. a vote of approval taken without formal ballot. —**ac·clam·a·to·ry** (ə-klām'ə-tōr'ē) *adj.*

ac·cli·mate (āk'lə-māt', ə-kli'mīt) ▶ *v. -mat·ed, -mat·ing* To make or become accustomed to a new environment or situation; adapt. See Synonyms at **harden**. [*Fr. acclimater.*] —**ac·cli·ma·tion** *n.*

ac·cli·ma·tize (ə-kli'mə-tīz') ▶ *v. -tized, -tiz·ing* To acclimate. See Synonyms at **harden**. —**ac·cli·ma·ti·za·tion** *n.*

ac·cliv·i·ty (ə-kliv'i-tē) ▶ *n., pl. -ties* An upward slope. [*< Lat. acclivis, uphill: ad-, ad- + clivus, slope.*]

ac·co·lade (āk'ə-lād', -lād') ▶ *n.* 1. High praise. 2. A special acknowledgment or award. [*< OFr. acoler, to embrace.*]

ac·com·mo·date (ə-kōm'ə-dāt') ▶ *v. -dat·ed, -dat·ing* 1a. To have enough space for: *constructed a parking lot that accommodates over 2,000 cars.* b. To provide lodging for: *a hotel that accommodated the wedding guests.* 2. To take into consideration; allow for. 3a. To do a favor for. See Synonyms at **oblige**. b. To provide or allow for: *accommodate the needs of both groups.* 4. To make suitable; adjust. See Synonyms at

grant authority or power to. **2.** To give permission for; sanction. **3.** To justify.

Syns: *accredit, commission, empower, license v.*

au-tism (ô'tîz'əm) ▶ *n.* A developmental disorder marked by severe deficits in social interaction, a limited range of activities and interests, and often the presence of repetitive behaviors.

—**au-tis'tic** (-tîs'tîk) *adj.* & *n.*

au-to (ô'tô) ▶ *n., pl. -tos* An automobile.

auto— or **aut—** ▶ *pref.* **1.** Self; same: *autobiography*.

2. Automatic: *autopilot*. [*< Gk. autos, self.*]

au-to-bahn (ô'tă-băn', ou'tô-) ▶ *n.* An expressway in Germany. [*Ger. : Auto, automobile + MHGer. ban, road.*]

au-to-bi-og-ra-phy (ô'tô-bî-ôg'ră-fē) ▶ *n., pl. -phies* The biography of a person written by that person. —**au'to-bi-og'ra-pher** *n.* —**au'to-bi-og'raph'ic** (-bî'ô-grăf'îk), **au'to-bi-og'raph'i-cal** *adj.*

au-toch-tho-nous (ô-tôk'thă-nəs) ▶ *adj.* Originating where found; indigenous; native. [*< Gk. autokthôn : AUTO- + kthôn, earth.*]

au-toc-ra-cy (ô-tôk'ră-sē) ▶ *n., pl. -cies* Government by a single person having unlimited power. —**au'to-crāt'** *n.* —**au'to-crāt'ic**, **au'to-crāt'i-cal** *adj.*

au-to-di-dact (ô'tô-dî-dăkt') ▶ *n.* A self-taught person. [*< Gk. autodidaktos, self-taught.*]

—**au'to-di-dac'tic** *adj.*

au-to-graph (ô'tă-grăf') ▶ *n.* **1.** A person's own signature. **2.** A manuscript in the author's handwriting. ▶ *v.* To write one's signature on.

au-to-im-mune (ô'tô-î-myōōn') ▶ *adj.* Of or relating to an immune response by the body against one of its own cells or tissues. —**au'to-im-mu'ni-ty** *n.*

au-to-mate (ô'tă-măt') ▶ *v.* —**mat-ed**, —**mat-ing** **1.** To convert to automatic operation. **2.** To operate by automation.

au-to-mat-ed teller machine (ô'tă-mă'tîd) ▶ *n.* See **ATM**.

au-to-mat'ic (ô'tă-măt'îk) ▶ *adj.* **1.** Acting or operating with little or no external influence or control. **2.** Involuntary; reflex. **3.** Responding or behaving in a mechanical way. **4.** Capable of firing continuously until ammunition is exhausted. ▶ *n.* A machine or device, esp. a firearm or an automobile transmission, that is automatic. [*< Gk. automatikos : AUTO- + -matos, willing.*] —**au'to-mat'i-cal-ly** *adv.*

automatic pilot ▶ *n.* A navigational mechanism, as on an aircraft, that automatically maintains a preset course; autopilot.

automatic teller machine ▶ *n.* See **ATM**.

au-to-ma-tion (ô'tă-mă'shən) ▶ *n.* The automatic operation or control of equipment, a process, or a system.

au-tom-a-tism (ô-tôm'ă-tîz'əm) ▶ *n.* The state, quality, or action of being automatic.

au-tom-a-tize (ô-tôm'ă-tîz') ▶ *v.* —**-tized**, —**-tizing** To make automatic. —**au'tom'a-ti-za-tion** *n.*

au-tom-a-ton (ô-tôm'ă-tən, -tôn') ▶ *n., pl. -tons* or —**ta** (-tă) **1.** An automatic machine or mechanism, esp. a robot. **2.** One that behaves or responds in an automatic or mechanical way. [*< Gk. automatos, AUTOMATIC.*]

au-to-mo-bile (ô'tă-mô-bēl', -mô'bēl') ▶ *n.* A land vehicle, esp. a four-wheeled passenger car powered by an internal-combustion engine.

au-to-mo-tive (ô'tă-mô'tîv) ▶ *adj.* **1.** Moving by

itself; self-propelled. **2.** Of or relating to self-propelled vehicles, esp. automobiles.

au-to-nom'ic nervous system (ô'tă-nôm'îk) ▶ *n.* The part of the vertebrate nervous system that regulates involuntary action, as of the intestines, heart, and glands.

au-ton-o-mous (ô-tôn'ô-məs) ▶ *adj.* **1.** Not controlled by others; independent. **2.** Self-governing, esp. with regard to internal affairs. [*< Gk. autonomos, self-ruling.*] —**au-ton'o-my** *n.*

au-to-pi-lot (ô'tô-pî'lôt) ▶ *n.* Automatic pilot.

au-top-sy (ô'tôp'sē, ô'tăp-) ▶ *n., pl. -sies* Examination of a dead body to find the cause of death; postmortem. [*Gk. autopsia, seeing for oneself.*] —**au'top'sist** *n.*

au-to-some (ô'tă-sôm') ▶ *n.* A chromosome that is not a sex chromosome.

au-to-sug-ges-tion (ô'tô-săg-jēs'chən) ▶ *n.* *Psychol.* The process by which a person induces self-acceptance of an opinion, belief, or plan of action.

au-to-troph (ô'tă-trôf', -trôf') ▶ *n.* An organism capable of synthesizing its own food from inorganic substances. [*AUTO- + Gk. trophē, food.*] —**au'to-troph'ic** *adj.*

au-tumn (ô'təm) ▶ *n.* **1.** The season between summer and winter; fall. **2.** A period of maturity verging on decline. [*< Lat. autumnus.*] —**au-tum'nal** (-tûm'nal) *adj.*

Au-vergne (ô-vûrn', -vêrn') A historical region and former province of central France.

aux. ▶ *abbr.* **1.** auxiliary **2.** auxiliary verb

aux-il-i-a-ry (ôg-zîl'yă-rē, -zîl'ă-rē) ▶ *adj.* **1.** Giving assistance or support; helping. **2.** Subsidiary; supplementary. **3.** Held in or used as a reserve. ▶ *n., pl. -ries* **1.** One that acts in a supporting capacity. **2.** An auxiliary verb. [*< Lat. auxilium, help.*]

auxiliary verb ▶ *n.* A verb, such as *have*, *can*, or *will*, that comes first in a verb phrase and helps form the mood, voice, aspect, and tense of the main verb.

aux-in (ôk'sîn) ▶ *n.* Any of several plant growth hormones. [*< Gk. auxein, grow.*]

Av (ăv, ôv) ▶ *n.* The 5th month of the Jewish calendar. See table at **calendar**. [*Heb. ăb.*]

AV ▶ *abbr.* **1.** or **A/V** ad valorem **2.** or **A/V** audiovisual **3.** Authorized Version

av. ▶ *abbr.* **1.** average **2.** avoidupois

a-vail (ă-văl') ▶ *v.* To be of use or advantage (to); help. ▶ *n.* Use, benefit, or advantage: *labored to no avail*. [*< Lat. valere, be strong, be worth.*]

a-vail-a-ble (ă-văl'ă-bəl) ▶ *adj.* **1.** At hand; accessible. **2.** Capable of being used or gotten; obtainable. —**a-vail'a-bil'i-ty** *n.*

av-a-lanche (ăv'ă-lănc'h') ▶ *n.* **1.** A slide of a large mass, esp. of snow, down a mountain-side. **2.** A massive amount: *an avalanche of mail*. [*Fr.*]

a-vant-garde (ă-vănt-gărd', äv'ănt-) ▶ *n.* A group that creates or promotes innovative ideas or techniques in a given field, esp. in the arts. [*Fr., vanguard.*] —**a-vant-garde'** *adj.*

av-a-ri-ce (ăv'ă-rîs) ▶ *n.* Extreme desire for wealth; greed. [*< Lat. avārus, greedy.*] —**av'a-ri'cious** (-ă-rîsh'əs) *adj.*

a-vast (ă-văst') ▶ *interj.* *Naut.* Used as a command to stop or desist. [*< MDu. hou vast, hold fast.*]

av-a-tar (ăv'ă-tăr') ▶ *n.* **1.** *Hinduism* One that is regarded as an incarnation, esp. of Vishnu.

- ooze**¹ (ōōz) ▶ *v.* **oozed**, **ooz-ing** To flow or leak out slowly. [*< OE wōs, juice.*] —**ooze** *n.* —**ooz/i-ness** *n.* —**ooz'y** *adj.*
- ooze**² (ōōz) ▶ *n.* Soft mud or slime, as on the floor of oceans and lakes. [*< OE wāse.*] —**ooz/i-ness** *n.* —**ooz'y** *adj.*
- opal** (ō'pāl) ▶ *n.* A translucent mineral of hydrated silica, often used as a gem. [*< Skt. upalāh.*] —**opal-ine**' (ō'pāl-in', -lən') *adj.*
- opal-es-cent** (ō'pāl-ēs'sənt) ▶ *adj.* Exhibiting a milky iridescence like that of an opal. —**opal-esce**' *v.* —**opal-es-cence** *n.*
- opaque** (ō-pāk') ▶ *adj.* **1a.** Impenetrable by light. **b.** Not reflecting light; dull. **2.** Unintelligible. **3.** Obtuse; dense. [*< Lat. opācus, dark.*] —**opal-i-ty** (ō-pās'i-tē), **opaque/ness** *n.* —**opaque/ly** *adv.*
- op art** also **Op Art** (ōp) ▶ *n.* Abstract art marked by the use of geometric shapes and brilliant colors to create optical illusions.
- op. cit.** ▶ *abbr.* *Lat.* opere citato (in the work cited)
- OPEC** (ō'pēk') ▶ *abbr.* Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
- op-ed** or **Op-Ed** (ōp'ēd') ▶ *adj.* Of or being a newspaper page that features signed articles expressing personal viewpoints.
- open** (ō'pən) ▶ *adj.* **1.** Affording unobstructed entrance and exit; not shut or closed. **2.** Having no protecting cover. **3.** Not sealed, tied, or folded. **4.** Having gaps, spaces, or intervals. **5.** Accessible to all; unrestricted. **6.** Susceptible; vulnerable. **7.** Ready to transact business. **8.** Not filled, engaged, or in use. **9.** Frank; candid. ▶ *v.* **1a.** To make no longer closed or fastened. **b.** To remove obstructions from; clear. **2.** To make or force an opening in. **3.** To remove the cover or wrapping from; undo. **4.** To spread out or apart. **5.** To begin or form the start of; initiate. **6.** To make available. **7.** To make or become more responsive or understanding. **8.** To make known to the public. **9.** To come into view. ▶ *n.* **1.** The outdoors. **2.** A tournament or contest for both professional and amateur players. —**phrasal verb:** **open up** *Informal* To speak freely and candidly. [*< OE.*] —**open'er** *n.* —**open-ly** *adv.* —**open-ness** *n.*
- open-air** (ō'pən-ār') ▶ *adj.* Outdoor; *an open-air concert.*
- open-and-shut** (ō'pən-ən-shūt') ▶ *adj.* Easily settled or determined.
- open-end** (ō'pən-ēnd') ▶ *adj.* Unlimited.
- open-end-ed** (ō'pən-ēn'did') ▶ *adj.* **1.** Not limited; open-end. **2.** Allowing for change. **3.** Inconclusive or indefinite. **4.** Allowing for an unstructured response; *an open-ended question.*
- open-eyed** (ō'pən-id') ▶ *adj.* **1.** Having the eyes wide open. **2.** Watchful and alert.
- open-hand-ed** (ō'pən-hān'did') ▶ *adj.* Giving freely; generous. See Synonyms at **liberal**. —**open-hand-ed-ly** *adv.* —**open-hand-ed-ness** *n.*
- open-hearth** (ō'pən-hārth') ▶ *adj.* Of a furnace with a heat-reflecting roof used in the production of high-quality steel.
- open house** ▶ *n.* **1.** A social event with a general invitation to all. **2.** An occasion when an institution is open for visiting by the public. **3.** An occasion when a residence for sale or rent is held open for public viewing.
- open-ing** (ō'pā-nīng) ▶ *n.* **1.** The act of becom-

- ing open or being made to open. **2.** A gap, breach, or aperture. **3a.** The first part or stage. **b.** The first performance. **c.** A series of beginning moves, esp. in chess. **4a.** An opportunity. **b.** An unfilled job or position.
- open-mind-ed** (ō'pən-mīn'did') ▶ *adj.* Receptive to new ideas or to reason. See Synonyms at **broad-minded**. —**open-mind-ed-ly** *adv.* —**open-mind-ed-ness** *n.*
- open shop** ▶ *n.* A business that does not discriminate against employees based on membership or nonmembership in a union.
- open-work** (ō'pən-wŭrk') ▶ *n.* Ornamental or structural work having many openings, usu. in set patterns.
- op-er-a'** (ōp'ər-ə, ōp'rə) ▶ *n.* **1.** A theatrical presentation in which a dramatic performance is set to music. **2.** A theater designed primarily for operas. [*< Lat., work.*] —**op-er-at'ic** (ōp'ər-āt'ik) *adj.* —**op-er-at'i-cal-ly** *adv.*
- op-er-a'** (ōp'ər-ə, ōp'rə) ▶ *n.* Pl. of **opus**.
- op-er-a-ble** (ōp'ər-ə-bəl, ōp'rə-) ▶ *adj.* **1.** Capable of or suitable for use. **2.** Treatable by surgery. [*< OPERATE.*] —**op-er-a-bil'i-ty** *n.* —**op-er-a-bly** *adv.*
- op-er-a** glasses (ōp'ər-ə, ōp'rə) ▶ *pl.n.* Small binoculars for use esp. at the theater.
- op-er-and** (ōp'ər-ənd) ▶ *n.* *Math.* A quantity on which an operation is performed. [*< Lat. operandum.*]
- op-er-ate** (ōp'ər-āt') ▶ *v.* **-at-ed**, **-at-ing** **1.** To perform a function; work. **2.** To perform surgery. **3.** To exert an influence. **4.** To control the functioning of. **5.** To conduct the affairs of. **6.** To supply with power: *a car that is operated by electricity.* [*Lat. operāre, operāt-, to work.*]
- op-er-at-ing** system (ōp'ər-āt'ing) ▶ *n.* Software designed to control the hardware of a specific computer system in order to allow users and application programs to make use of it.
- op-er-a-tion** (ōp'ər-rā'shən) ▶ *n.* **1.** The act or process of operating. **2.** The state of being operative. **3. Med.** A surgical procedure for remedying an injury or ailment. **4. Math.** A process, such as addition, performed in accordance with specific rules. **5. Comp.** An action resulting from a single instruction. **6.** A military action or campaign. —**op-er-a-tion-al** *adj.* —**op-er-a-tion-al-ly** *adv.*
- op-er-a-tive** (ōp'ər-ə-tiv, -ə-rā'tiv, ōp'rə-) ▶ *adj.* **1.** Being in effect; having force. **2.** Functioning effectively. **3.** Of or relating to a surgical operation. ▶ *n.* **1.** A skilled worker, esp. in industry. **2a.** A spy. **b.** A private detective. **3.** One who works for a political organization. —**op-er-a-tive-ly** *adv.*
- op-er-a-tor** (ōp'ər-rā'tər) ▶ *n.* **1.** One who operates a machine or system. **2.** The owner or manager of a business. **3. Informal** A person adept at accomplishing goals shrewdly or unscrupulously. **4. Math.** A symbol that represents an operation.
- op-er-et-ta** (ōp'ər-rēt'tə) ▶ *n.* A theatrical production that has elements of opera but is lighter and more popular in subject and style. [*Ital.*]
- oph-thal-mic** (ōf-thāl'mik, ōp-) ▶ *adj.* Relating to the eye; ocular.
- ophthalmo-** or **ophthalm-** ▶ *pref.* Eye; *ophthalmology.* [*< Gk. ophthalmos, eye.*]
- oph-thal-mol-o-gy** (ōf-thāl-mōl'ə-jē, -thāl-ōp'-) ▶ *n.* The study of diseases and disorders