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1. English language—Dictionaries

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Synonyms lazy, faint, idle, indolent, slothful These adjectives mean not disposed to exertion, work, or activity; too lazy to wash the dishes; faint, aristocratic; an idle drifter; an indolent hanger-on; some slothful employees.

la·zy·bones (lā'zē-bōnz') *pl.n.* (used with a sing. verb) Informal A lazy person.

lazy eye *n.* See amblyopia.

lazy Susan *n.* A revolving tray for condiments or food.

lazy tongs *pl.n.* (used with a sing. or pl. verb) Tongs having a jointed extensible framework operated by scissorslike handles, used for grasping an object at a distance.

LB *abbr.* linebacker

lb. *abbr.* 1. libra (ancient Roman weight) 2. pound (modern weight)

lb *abbr.* Lebanon (in Internet addresses)

LBO *abbr.* leveraged buyout

lc *abbr.* lowercase

LC *abbr.* 1. landing craft 2. Library of Congress

L/C *abbr.* letter of credit

.lc *abbr.* Saint Lucia (in Internet addresses)

lcd *abbr.* least common denominator

LCD *abbr.* liquid-crystal display

LCDR *abbr.* lieutenant commander

LCL *abbr.* less-than-carload lot

lcm *abbr.* least common multiple

LCpl *abbr.* lance corporal

LCT *abbr.* 1. land conservation trust 2. local civil time

LD *abbr.* 1a. learning disability b. learning-disabled 2. lethal dose

ld. *abbr.* Printing lead

ld. *abbr.* 1a. limited b. limited company 2. lord (title)

LDC *abbr.* less-developed country

LDL *abbr.* low-density lipoprotein

L-dopa (lĕ-dō'pā) *n.* An amino acid that is the metabolic precursor of dopamine, is converted in the brain to dopamine, and used in synthetic form to treat Parkinson's disease. Also called *levodopa*.

LDPE *abbr.* low-density polyethylene

lea (lē, lā) also **ley** (lā, lē) *n.* A grassland; a meadow. [Middle English *leae*, from Old English *lēah*. See *leuk-* in Appendix I.]

lea. *abbr.* league (measurement)

leach (lēch) *v.* **leached**, **leach·ing**, **leach·es** —*tr.* 1. To remove soluble or other constituents from by the action of a percolating liquid. 2. To empty; drain: "a world leached of pleasure, voided of meaning" (Marilynne Robinson). —*intr.* To be dissolved or passed out by a percolating liquid. ♦ *n.* 1. The act or process of leaching. 2. A porous, perforated, or sieve-like vessel that holds material to be leached. 3. The substance through which a liquid is leached. [From Middle English *leche*, leachate, from Old English **lece*, muddy stream; akin to *leccan*, to moisten.] —**leach·a·bil·i·ty** *n.* —**leach·a·ble** *adj.* —**leach·er** *n.*

leach·ate (lē'chāt) *n.* A product or solution formed by leaching, especially a solution containing contaminants picked up through the leaching of soil.

Lea·cock (lē'kōk'), **Stephen Butler** 1869–1944. Canadian economist who is best remembered for his humorous writing, contained in volumes such as *Literary Lapses* (1910) and *Nonsense Novels* (1911).

lead (lēd) *v.* **led** (lēd), **lead·ing**, **leads** —*tr.* 1. To show the way by going in advance. 2. To guide or direct in a course: *lead a horse by the halter*. See *synonyms at guide*. 3a. To serve as a route for; take: *The path led them to a cemetery*. b. To be a channel or conduit for (water or electricity, for example). 4. To guide the behavior or opinion of; induce: *lead us to believe otherwise*. 5a. To direct the performance or activities of: *lead an orchestra*. b. To inspire the conduct of: *led the nation in its crisis*. 6. To play a principal or guiding role in: *lead a discussion*; *led the antiwar movement*. 7a. To go or be at the head of: *The queen led the procession*. b. To be ahead of: *led the runner-up by three strides*. c. To be foremost in or among: *led the field in nuclear research*; *led her teammates in free throws*. 8. To pass or go through; live: *lead an independent life*. 9. To begin or open with, as in games: *led an ace*. 10. To guide (a partner) in dancing. 11a. To aim in front of (a moving target). b. Sports To pass a ball or puck ahead of (a moving teammate) so that the player can receive the pass without changing direction or losing momentum. —*intr.* 1. To be first; be ahead. 2. To go first as a guide. 3. To act as commander, director, or guide. 4. To afford a passage, course, or route: *a road that leads over the mountains*; *a door leading to the pantry*. 5. To tend toward a certain goal or result: *a remark that led to further discussion*; *policies that led to disaster*. 6. To make the initial play, as in a game or contest. 7. To begin a presentation or an account in a given way: *The announcer led with the day's top stories*. 8a. To guide a dance partner. b. To start a dance step on a specified foot. 9. Baseball To advance a few paces away from one's base toward the next while the pitcher is in the delivery. Used of a base runner. 10. Sports To begin an attack in boxing with a specified hand or punch: *led with a right to the body*. ♦ *n.* 1a. The first or foremost position. b. One occupying such a position; a leader. c. The initiative; *took the lead in setting the pace of the project*. 2. The margin by which one holds a position of advantage or superiority: *held a lead of nine points at the half*. 3a. Information pointing toward a possible solution; a clue; *followed a promising lead in the murder case*. b. An indication of potential opportunity; a tip; *a good lead for a job*. 4. Command; leadership; *took over the lead of the company*. 5. An example; a precedent; *followed his sister's lead in running for office*. 6a. The principal role in a dramatic production. b. The person playing such a role. 7a. The intro-

ductory portion of a news story. b. An important, usually prominently displayed news story. 8. Games a. The first play. b. The prerogative or turn to make the first play: *The lead passes to the player on the left*. c. A card played first in a round. 9. Baseball A position taken by a base runner away from one base in the direction of the next. 10. Sports A blow in boxing that begins a series or exchange of punches. 11. A leash. 12. Geology a. A deposit of gold ore in an old riverbed. b. See *lode* (sense 1). 13. Electronics A conductor by which one circuit element is electrically connected to another. 14. Nautical The direction in which a line runs. 15. The distance aimed in front of a moving target. 16. A channel of open water created by a break in a mass of ice. ♦ *adj.* 1. First or foremost: *the lead leg on a surfboard*. 2. Most important; *the lead author of a research paper*. —**phrasal verbs:** **lead off** 1. To begin; start. 2. Baseball To be the first batter in an inning. **lead on** 1. To keep in a state of expectation or hope; entice. 2. To mislead; deceive. —**Idioms:** **lead the way** 1. To show a course or route by going in advance. 2. To be foremost in an endeavor or trend: *The firm led the way in the application of new technology*. **lead up to** 1. To result in by a series of steps: *events leading up to the coup*. 2. To proceed toward (a main topic) with preliminary remarks. [Middle English *leden*, from Old English *lædan*. See *leit-* in Appendix I.]

lead (lēd) *n.* 1. **Symbol Pb** A soft, malleable, ductile, bluish-white, dense metallic element, extracted chiefly from galena and used in containers and pipes for corrosives, solder and type metal, bullets, radiation shielding, paints, and antiknock compounds. Atomic number 82; atomic weight 207.2; melting point 327.5°C; boiling point 1,744°C; specific gravity 11.35; valence 2, 4. See table at *element*. 2. A lead weight suspended by a line, used to make soundings. 3. Bullets from or for firearms; shot: *pumped the target full of lead*. 4. **leads** Strips of lead used to hold the panes of a window. 5. **Abbr. ld.** Printing A thin strip of metal used to separate lines of type. 6. **leads** Chiefly British A flat roof covered with sheets of lead. 7a. Any of various, often graphitic compositions used as the writing substance in pencils. b. A thin stick of such material. —*tr.* **lead·ed**, **lead·ing**, **leads** 1. To cover, line, weight, or fill with lead. 2. Printing To provide space between (lines of type) with leads. 3. To secure (window glass) with leads. 4. To treat with lead or a lead compound: *leaded gasoline*; *leaded paint*. —**idiom:** **get the lead out** Informal To start moving or move more rapidly. [Middle English *lead*, from Old English *lēad*, probably of Celtic origin.] —**lead** *adj.*

lead acetate (lēd) *n.* A poisonous white crystalline compound, Pb(C₂H₃O₂)₂·3H₂O, used in hair dyes, waterproofing compounds, and varnishes. Also called *sugar of lead*.

lead arsenate (lēd) *n.* A poisonous white crystalline compound, Pb₃(AsO₄)₂, used in insecticides and herbicides.

lead carbonate (lēd) *n.* A poisonous white amorphous powder, PbCO₃, used as a paint pigment.

lead chromate (lēd) *n.* A poisonous yellow crystalline compound, PbCrO₄, used as a paint pigment.

lead colic (lēd) *n.* See *painter's colic*.

lead dioxide (lēd) *n.* A poisonous brown crystalline compound, PbO₂, used as an oxidizing agent in electrodes, batteries, and explosives.

lead·en (lēd'n) *adj.* 1. Made of or containing lead. 2a. Heavy and inert. b. Listless; sluggish. 3. Lacking liveliness or sparkle; dull: *a leaden conversation*. 4. Downcast; depressed: *leaden spirits*. 5. Dull, dark gray in color: *drizzle from a leaden sky*. —**lead·en·ly** *adv.* —**lead·en·ness** *n.*

lead·er (lē'dər) *n.* 1. One that leads or guides. 2. One who is in charge or in command of others. 3a. One who heads a political party or organization. b. One who has influence or power, especially of a political nature. 4. Music a. A conductor, especially of orchestra, band, or choral group. b. The principal performer in an orchestral section or a group. 5. The foremost animal, such as a horse or dog, in a harnessed team. 6. A loss leader. 7. Chiefly British The main editorial in a newspaper. 8. **leaders** Printing Dots or dashes in a row leading the eye across a page, as in an index entry. 9. A pipe for conducting liquid. 10. A short length of gut, wire, or similar material by which a hook is attached to a fishing line. 11. A blank strip at the end or beginning of a film or tape used in threading or winding. 12. Botany The growing apex or main shoot of a shrub or tree. 13. An economic indicator.

lead·er·board (lē'dər-bōrd', -bōrd') *n.* A board that displays the leaders in a competition.

lead·er·ship (lē'dər-shīp') *n.* 1. The position or office of a leader: *ascended to the leadership of the party*. 2. Capacity or ability to lead: *showed strong leadership during her first term in office*. 3. A group of leaders: *met with the leadership of the nation's top unions*. 4. Guidance; direction: *The business prospered under the leadership of the new president*.

lead glass (lēd) *n.* See *flint glass*.

lead-in (lēd'in) *n.* 1. Opening or introductory matter: *The joke served as a lead-in to a discussion of more serious matters*. 2. A program, as on television, scheduled to precede another. 3. The wire that connects an outdoor antenna to an electronic transmitter or receiver.

lead·ing (lēd'ing) *adj.* 1. Having a position in the lead; foremost: *the leading candidate*. 2. Chief; principal: *the leading cause of high inflation*. See *synonyms at chief*. 3. Of or performing a lead in a theatrical production: *a leading role*; *a leading lady*. 4. Formulated so as to elicit a desired response: *a leading question*. —**lead·ing·ly** *adv.*

lead·ing (lēd'ing) *n.* 1. A border or rim of lead, as around a windowpane. 2. Printing The spacing between lines, usually measured in points.

lead·ing economic indicator (lēd'ing) *n.* An economic or financial variable that tends to move ahead of and in the same direction as general economic activity.

à pat	oi boy
à pay	ou out
àr care	ou took
à father	oo boot
è pet	ù cut
è be	ùr urge
ì pit	th thin
ì pie	th this
ir pier	hw which
ò pot	zh vision
ò toe	à about, item
ò paw	♦ regionalism

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