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- place in doubt, perplexity, or difficulties **b**: to involve in financial difficulties **c**: to cause to experience a state of self-conscious distress (bawdy stories ~ed him) **2 a**: to hamper the movement of **b**: HINDER, IMPEDE **3**: to make intricate; COMPLICATE **4**: to impair the activity of (a bodily function) or the function of (a bodily part) (digestion ~ed by overeating) **vi**: to become anxiously self-conscious (he ~ed easily) — **em-bar-rass-able** \ə-sə-bəl/ *adj*
- syn** EMBARRASS, DISCOMFIT, ABASH, DISCONCERT, RATTLE mean to distress by confusing or confounding. EMBARRASS implies some influence that impedes thought, speech, or action (embarrassed to admit that she liked the movie). DISCOMFIT implies a hampering or frustrating accompanied by confusion (hecklers discomfited the speaker). ABASH presupposes some initial self-confidence that receives a sudden check, producing shyness, shame, or a feeling of inferiority (abashed by her swift and cutting retort). DISCONCERT implies an upsetting of equanimity or assurance producing uncertainty or hesitancy (disconcerted by finding so many in attendance). RATTLE implies an agitation that impairs thought and judgment (rattled by all the television cameras).
- em-bar-rased-ly** \ə-st-lē, -səd-lē/ *adv* (1883): with embarrassment
- em-bar-rass-ing-ly** \ə-sin-lē/ *adv* (ca. 1864): to an embarrassing degree: so as to cause embarrassment (an ~ house)
- em-bar-rass-ment** \im-ber-ə-smənt, -bə-ras-/ *n* (1729) **1 a**: something that embarrasses (the scandal was a major ~) **b**: an excessive quantity from which to select — used esp. in the phrase *embarrassment of riches* **2**: the state of being embarrassed: as **a**: confusion or disturbance of mind (couldn't hide her ~) **b**: difficulty arising from the want of money to pay debts **c**: difficulty in functioning as a result of disease (cardiac ~)
- em-bas-sage** \em-bə-sij/ *n* (1526) **1**: the message or commission entrusted to an ambassador **2** *archaic*: EMBASSY
- em-bas-sy** \em-bə-sē/ *n*, *pl* -sies [MF *ambassee*, ultim. of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *ambast* service] (1534) **1**: a body of diplomatic representatives; *specif*: one headed by an ambassador **2 a**: the function or position of an ambassador **b**: a mission abroad undertaken officially esp. by an ambassador **3**: EMBASSAGE **4**: the official residence and offices of an ambassador
- em-bat-tle** \im-ba-tl/ *vt* **em-bat-tled**; **em-bat-tling** \-bat-lin, -tl-ŋ/ [ME *embataillen*, fr. AF *embatailler*, fr. *en- + batailler* to battle] (14c) **1**: to arrange in order of battle; prepare for battle **2**: FORTIFY
- embattled** *adj* (15c) **1 a**: ready to fight; prepared to give battle (here once the farmers stood — R. W. Emerson) **b**: engaged in battle, conflict, or controversy (an ~ official accused of extortion) **2 a**: being a site of battle, conflict, or controversy (the ~ capital) **b**: characterized by conflict or controversy (an ~ presidency)
- em-bat-tle-ment** \-ba-tl-mənt/ *n* (15c) **1**: BATTLEMENT **2**: the state of being embattled
- em-bay** \im-bā/ *vt* (1582): to trap or catch in or as if in a bay (an ~ed sailing ship)
- em-bay-ment** \-bā-mənt/ *n* (1815) **1**: formation of a bay **2**: a bay or a conformation resembling a bay
- Em-ben** \em-dən/ *n* [Emden, Germany] (1903): any of a breed of large white domestic geese with an orange bill and deep orange shanks and toes
- em-bed** also **im-bed** \im-bed/ *vb* **em-bed-ded** also **im-bed-ded**; **em-bed-ding** also **im-bed-ding** *vt* (ca. 1794) **1 a**: to enclose closely in or as if in a matrix (jewels ~ed in stone) **b**: to make something an integral part of (the prejudices ~ed in our language) **c**: to prepare (a microscopy specimen) for sectioning by infiltrating with and enclosing in a supporting substance **2**: to surround closely (a sweet pulp ~s the plum seed) **vi**: to become embedded — **em-bed-ment** \-bed-mənt/ *n*
- em-bed-ded** \im-be-dəd/ *adj* (1961): occurring as a grammatical constituent (as a verb phrase or clause) within a like constituent — **em-bed-ding** \-dɪŋ/ *n*
- em-bel-ish** \im-bel-ɪʃ/ *vt* [ME, fr. AF *embeliss-*, stem of *embelir*, fr. *en- + bel* beautiful — more at BEAUTY] (14c) **1**: to make beautiful with ornamentation; DECORATE (a book ~ed with illustrations) **2**: to heighten the attractiveness of by adding decorative or fanciful details: ENHANCE (ed our account of the trip) **syn** see ADORN — **em-bel-ish-er** *n*
- em-bel-ish-ment** \-ish-mənt/ *n* (1591) **1**: the act or process of embellishing **2**: something serving to embellish **3**: ORNAMENT
- em-ber** \em-bar/ *n* [ME *eymere*, fr. ON *eymyrja*; akin to OE *æmmerge* ashes, *U were to burn*] (14c) **1**: a glowing fragment (as of coal) from a fire; *esp*: one smoldering in ashes **2 pl**: the smoldering remains of a fire **3 pl**: slowly dying or fading emotions, memories, ideas, or responses still capable of being revived (the ~s of his past)
- ember day** \em-bar-/ *n* [ME, fr. OE *ymbrendæg*, fr. *ymbrene* circuit, anniversary + *dæg* day] (bef. 12c): a Wednesday, Friday, or Saturday following the first Sunday in Lent, Whitsunday, September 14, or December 13 set apart for fasting and prayer in Western churches
- em-bez-zle** \im-be-zəl, -m-/ *vt* **em-bez-zled**; **em-bez-zling** \-z(ə)-lɪŋ/ [ME *embesilen*, fr. AF *embesiller* to make away with, fr. *en- + besiller* to steal, plunder] (15c): to appropriate (as property entrusted to one's care) fraudulently to one's own use (embezzled thousands of dollars) — **em-bez-zle-ment** \-zəl-mənt/ *n* — **em-bez-zler** \-z(ə)-lər/ *n*
- em-bit-ter** \im-bi-tər/ *vt* (15c) **1**: to excite bitter feelings in (ed by divorce) **2**: to make bitter — **em-bit-ter-ment** \-mənt/ *n*
- em-blaze** \im-blāz/ *vt* **em-blazed**; **em-blaz-ing** (15c) **1**: to illuminate esp. by a blaze **2**: to set ablaze
- em-blaze** *vt* **em-blazed**; **em-blaz-ing** [en- + blaze to blazon] (1593) **1** *archaic*: EMBLazon **2**: to adorn sumptuously (with gems and golden luster rich ~ed) — John Milton
- em-blazon** \im-blā-zən/ *vt* **em-blazoned**; **em-blazon-ing** \-blā-zɪŋ, -blā-zən-ɪŋ/ (1589) **1 a**: to inscribe or adorn with or as if with heraldic bearings or devices **b**: to inscribe (as heraldic bearings) on a surface **2**: CELEBRATE, EXTOL (have his ... deeds ~ed by a poet — Thomas Nash) — **em-blazon-er** \-blā-zər, -zən-ər/ *n* — **em-blazon-ment** \-blā-zən-mənt/ *n*
- em-blazon-ry** \-zən-rē/ *n* (1667) **1**: emblazoned figures: brilliant decoration **2**: the act or art of emblazoning
- em-blem** \em-bləm/ *n* [ME, fr. L *emblema* inlaid work, fr. Gk *emblemata*, *emblemata*, fr. *emballēin* to insert, fr. *en- + ballēin* to throw — more at DEVIL] (15c) **1**: a picture with a motto or set of verses intended as a moral lesson **2**: an object or the figure of an object symbolizing and suggesting another object or an idea **3 a**: a symbolic object used as a heraldic device **b**: a device, symbol, or figure adopted and used as an identifying mark
- em-blem-at-ic** \em-bla-ma-tik/ *also* **em-blem-at-i-cal** \-ti-kəl/ *adj* (1645): of, relating to, or constituting an emblem: SYMBOLIC, REPRESENTATIVE — **em-blem-at-i-cal-ly** \-ti-k(ə)-lē/ *adv*
- em-blem-a-tize** \em-ble-ma-tīz/ *vt* -tized; -tizing (1615): to represent by or as if by an emblem: SYMBOLIZE
- em-ble-ments** \em-bla-mən(t)s/ *n pl* [ME *emblaement*, fr. AF *emblaement*, fr. *emblaier* to sow with grain, fr. *en- + blēer* grain, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *blæd* fruit, growth, leaf — more at BLADE] (15c): crops from annual cultivation legally belonging to the tenant
- em-bod-i-ment** \im-bā-di-mənt/ *n* (1828) **1**: one that embodies something (the ~ of all our hopes) **2**: the act of embodying: the state of being embodied
- em-body** \im-bā-dē/ *vt* **em-bod-ded**; **em-body-ing** (ca. 1548) **1**: to give a body to (a spirit): INCARNATE **2 a**: to deprive of spirituality **b**: to make concrete and perceptible **3**: to cause to become a body or part of a body: INCORPORATE **4**: to represent in human or animal form: PERSONIFY (men who greatly embodied the idealism of American life — A. M. Schlesinger 1917) — **em-bod-i-er** *n*
- em-bold-en** \im-bōl-dən/ *vt* (15c): to instill with boldness or courage
- em-bo-lec-to-my** \em-bə-lek-to-mē/ *n*, *pl* -mies (1923): surgical removal of an embolus
- em-bol-ic** \em-bā-lik, im-/ *adj* (1866): of or relating to an embolus or embolism
- em-bo-li-sa-tion** *Brit var of EMBOLIZATION*
- em-bo-lism** \em-bə-li-zəm/ *n* [ME *embolismus*, fr. ML *embolismus*, fr. Gk *embole-* (fr. *emballēin* to insert, intercalate) — more at EMBLEM] (14c) **1**: the insertion of one or more days in a calendar: INTERCALATION **2 a**: the sudden obstruction of a blood vessel by an embolus **b**: EMBOLUS
- em-bo-li-zation** \em-bə-li-zā-shən/ *n* (1942): the process or state in which a blood vessel or organ is obstructed by the lodgment of a material mass (as an embolus)
- em-bo-lus** \em-bə-ləs/ *n*, *pl* -li \-li/ [NL, fr. Gk *embolos* wedge-shaped object, stopper, fr. *emballēin*] (1859): an abnormal particle (as an air bubble) circulating in the blood — compare THROMBUS
- em-bon-point** \ā-bōn-pwɑ/ *n* [F, fr. MF, fr. *en bon point* in good condition] (1670): plumpness of person: STOUTNESS
- em-bos-om** \im-bū-zəm/ *also* \-bū-/ *vt* (ca. 1590) **1** *archaic*: to take into or place in the bosom **2**: to shelter closely: ENCLOSE (his house ~ed in the grove — Alexander Pope)
- em-boss** \im-bās, -bōs/ *vt* [ME *embosen* to become exhausted from being hunted, ultim. fr. AF *bois* woods] (14c) *archaic*: to drive (as a hunted animal) to bay or to exhaustion
- em-bos-sed** *vt* [ME *embosen*, fr. MF *embocer*, fr. *en- + boc* boss] (15c) **1**: to raise the surface of into bosses; *esp*: to ornament with raised work **2**: to raise in relief from a surface **3**: ADORN, EMBELLISH — **em-boss-able** \-bā-sə-bəl, -bō-/ *adj* — **em-boss-er** \-sər/ *n* — **em-boss-ment** \-mənt/ *n*
- em-bou-chure** \ām-bū-ʃūr, ām-bū-/ *n* [F, fr. (s) *emboucher* to flow into, fr. *en- + bouche* mouth — more at DEBOUCH] (1760) **1**: the position and use of the lips, tongue, and teeth in playing a wind instrument **2**: the mouthpiece of a musical instrument
- em-bour-geoise-ment** \em-būrzh-wāz-mənt, ām-/ *n* [F, fr. *embourgeoisier* to make bourgeois, fr. *em- + bourgeois*] (1937): a shift to bourgeois values and practices
- em-bowed** \im-bōd/ *adj* (15c): bent like a bow: ARCHED
- em-bow-el** \im-bau(-ə)/ *vt* -eled or -elled; -eling or -elling (1521) **1**: DISMEMBER **2** *obs*: ENCLOSE
- em-bow-er** \im-bau(-ə)/ *vt* (1580): to shelter or enclose in or as if in a bower (like a rose ~ed in its own green leaves — P. B. Shelley)
- em-brace** \im-brās/ *vb* **em-braced**; **em-brac-ing** [ME, fr. AF *embracer*, fr. *en- + brace* pair of arms — more at BRACE] *vt* (14c) **1 a**: to clasp in the arms: HUG **b**: CHERISH, LOVE **2**: ENCIRCLE, ENCLOSE **3 a**: to take up esp. readily or gladly (a cause) **b**: to avail oneself of: WELCOME (embraced the opportunity to study further) **4 a**: to take in or include as a part, item, or element of a more inclusive whole (charity ~s all acts that contribute to human welfare) **b**: to be equal or equivalent to (his assets embraced \$10) **vi**: to participate in an embrace **syn** see ADOPT, INCLUDE — **em-brace-able** \-brā-sə-bəl/ *adj* — **em-brace-ment** \-brās-mənt/ *n* — **em-brac-er** *n* — **em-brac-ing-ly** \-brā-sin-lē/ *adv*
- embrace** *n* (1592) **1**: a close encircling with the arms and pressure to the chest esp. as a sign of affection: HUG **2**: GRIP, ENCIRCLEMENT (in the ~ of terror) **3**: ACCEPTANCE (her ~ of new ideas)
- em-brac-eor** \im-brā-sər/ *n* [AF *embraseour*, fr. *embraser* to set on fire, fr. *en- + brase*, *brase* live coals, fr. OF *breze* — more at BRAISE] (15c): one guilty of embracery
- em-brac-ery** \im-brā-sə-rē/ *n*, *pl* -er-ies [ME, fr. AF *embraceour*] (15c): an attempt to influence a jury corruptly
- em-brac-ive** \-brā-siv/ *adj* (1855) **1**: disposed to embrace **2**: INCLUSIVE, COMPREHENSIVE
- em-bran-gle** \im-bray-gəl/ *vt* -gled; -gling \-g(ə)-lɪŋ/ [en- + brangle (squabble)] (1664): EMBROID — **em-bran-gle-ment** \-gəl-mənt/ *n*
- em-bra-sure** \im-brā-zhər/ *n* [F, fr. obs. *embraser* to widen an opening] (1702) **1**: an opening with sides flaring outward in a wall or parapet of a fortification used for allowing the firing of cannon **2**: a recess of a door or window
- em-brit-tle** \im-bri-tl/ *vb* -brit-tled; -brit-tling \-brit-lɪŋ, -tl-ɪŋ/ *vt* (1902): to make brittle ~ *vi*: to become brittle — **em-brit-tle-ment** \-brɪ-tl-mənt/ *n*
- em-bro-ca-tion** \em-brā-kā-shən/ *n* [ME *embrocacion*, fr. MF *embrocacion*, fr. ML *embrocation*, *embrocato*, fr. LL *embrocato* to rub with lotion, fr. Gk *embroche* lotion, fr. *en- + brechein* to wet] (15c): LINIMENT
- em-brol-der** \im-brōi-dər/ *vb* **em-brol-dered**; **em-brol-der-ing** \-d(ə)-rɪŋ/ *vt* [alter. of ME *embroderen*, fr. AF *embrouder*, fr. *en- + broder*, *broder* to embroider, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *brord* point, *byrst* bristle] *vt* (14c) **1 a**: to ornament with needlework **b**: to form with